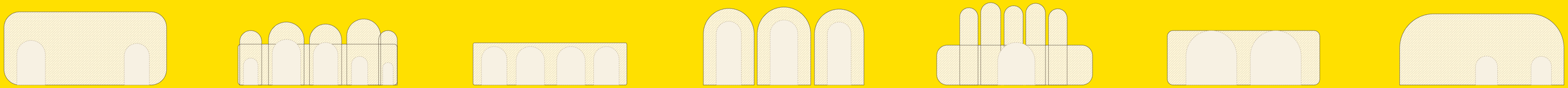


THE SUPERGRAPHIC FOLLIES OF MANNAHATTA

AN ATLAS OF SEVEN FOLLIES, THEIR PAINTED FIELDS, AND SIXTEEN SPECULATIVE SITES ON THE ISLAND OF NEW YORK

SURJAN SUPER SCHOOL

27 PLATES / LANDSCAPE 24 × 16 IN

NO BLACK PERMITTED

SURJAN, WITH THE AID OF CLAUDE

P-02

CONTENTS & CONVENTIONS

CONTENTS

27 PLATES

PART ONE — APPARATUS

P-01 COVER 01
P-02 CONTENTS & CONVENTIONS 02
P-03 PRECEDENT I — THE INVENTION OF SUPERGRAPHICS, 1962–1984 03
P-04 PRECEDENT II — SIX OPERATIONS OF THE PAINTED WALL 04

PART TWO — THE REGISTER OF SEVEN

P-05 F-01 — THE STACK BAR 05
P-06 F-02 — THE LOBED ARCADE 06
P-07 F-03 — THE HAIRPIN 07
P-08 F-04 — THE TRIPLE PORTAL 08
P-09 F-05 — THE CRENELLATED OCULUS 09
P-10 F-06 — THE TWIN ARCH MASTHOUSE 10
P-11 F-07 — THE VAULTED TANKFARM 11
P-12 COMPARATIVE MORPHOLOGY OF THE SEVEN 12

PART THREE — SITING

P-13 THE ISLAND REGISTER — SIXTEEN SITES 13
P-14 S-01 THE BATTERY 14
P-15 S-04 PIER 76 15
P-16 S-05 TIMES SQUARE BOWTIE 16
P-17 S-07 PARK AVENUE VIADUCT 17
P-18 S-08 SHEEP MEADOW 18
P-19 S-10 79TH STREET ROTUNDA 19
P-20 S-11 HARLEM MEER 20
P-21 THE ALTERNATE SITES DOSSIER — NINE IN RESERVE 21

PART FOUR — AERIALS

P-22 AERIAL I — THE BATTERY 22
P-23 AERIAL II — THE BOWTIE 23
P-24 AERIAL III — FIVE SITES IN OBLIQUE 24
P-25 AERIAL IV — THE ISLAND, ALL SEVEN AT ×10 25
P-26 SCALE — THE FOLLIES AGAINST THE CITY 26
P-27 COLOPHON & METHOD 27

NOTATION KEY

ALL PLATES

- SILHOUETTE
- FIELD OUTLINE
- CONSTRUCTION
- CENTRE MARK
- APERTURE (PLAN)
- LEADER + LABEL
- DIMENSION STRING
- GROUND DATUM ±0.00
- SCALE FIGURE 5FT-10
- TREE / PLANTING
- WATER
- BLOCK / BUILT LOT
- PEDESTRIAN FLOW
- CROWD (1 DOT = 40)

PALETTE REGISTER

BRIGHT ONLY / NO BLACK

Y-01	#FFE000	
Y-02	#F2EA3A	
Y-03	#FFC400	
O-01	#FF7A00	
R-01	#FF3B14	
M-01	#FF2E8B	
G-01	#C3E000	
G-02	#8FCB2E	
B-01	#7FD4F5	
B-02	#3FA9E0	
C-01	#FFF6D8	
W-01	#FFFFFF	
P-00	#F7F1E3	
N-01	#B9AC96	
N-02	#8A7B66	
N-03	#5C5142	DARKEST PERMITTED

NO BLACK ANYWHERE ON ANY PLATE. THE DARKEST TONE IS A WARM TAUPE.

CONVENTIONS

READ BEFORE THE REGISTER

ONE THE GROUND IS PAINTED.

Every folly stands on a yellow ground datum taken as ±0.00. The ground is not a plinth; it is the first and largest element of the field, and it is drawn in every elevation.

TWO THE FIELD IS CLIPPED, NOT FITTED.

Discs are struck at full size from compass centres that frequently fall outside the building, then cut at the silhouette. No disc is resized to suit a wall.

THREE THE APERTURE IGNORES THE FIELD.

Openings are cut without regard to the colour beneath them, so each portal takes whatever colours it happens to interrupt.

FOUR ONLY APPARATUS MAY LEAVE THE SILHOUETTE.

Flues, masts, orbs, capsules and canopies are permitted above the roofline. Nothing habitable is.

FIVE THE SITE PLANS LIE.

In Part Three every folly is drawn between four and six times its true length. The overscale is stated on each plate and is the argument of the atlas, not an error of drafting.

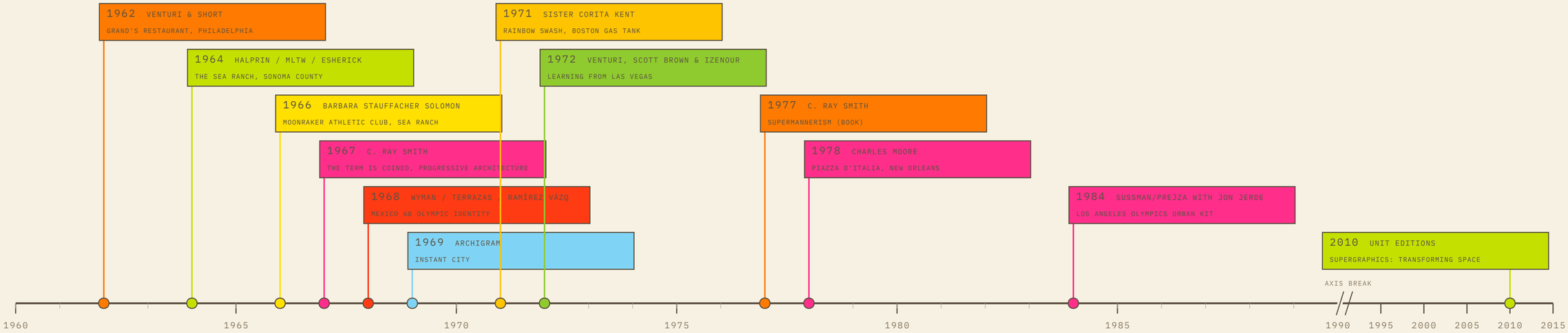
P-03

PRECEDENT I

THE INVENTION OF SUPERGRAPHICS, 1962–1984

TIMELINE

1960 — 2015



THE TERM IS 59 YEARS OLD; THE ARGUMENT IS OLDER. SOURCES CONSULTED ARE NAMED IN FULL ON PLATE P-27.

1962 VENTURI & SHORT

GRAND'S RESTAURANT, PHILADELPHIA

Identified by C. Ray Smith as an early precursor: paint used to dissolve a small room.

1964 HALPRIN / MLTW / ESHERICK

THE SEA RANCH, SONOMA COUNTY

Ten miles of coast planned to be lived on lightly; weathered timber outside, colour within.

1966 BARBARA STAUFFACHER SOLOMON

MOONRAKER ATHLETIC CLUB, SEA RANCH

The turning point. Asked for a cheap signage system after the budget ran over, she painted oversized letters and figures straight onto the walls — Basel hard-edge crossed with California abstract expressionism.

1967 C. RAY SMITH

THE TERM IS COINED, PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE

Smith (1929–1988) insisted the work was “not a decorative-device” but a spatial experiment. Graphics carrying identifiable elements — letters, numbers, eyes — were excluded from his definition.

1968 WYMAN / TERRAZAS / RAMÍREZ VÁZQUEZ

MEXICO 68 OLYMPIC IDENTITY

A single radiating line system run from typeface to pavement to balloon; the city itself became the print run.

1969 ARCHIGRAM

INSTANT CITY

Graphics as the deliverable: the event arrives by airship, is inflated, painted, and leaves.

1971 SISTER CORITA KENT

RAINBOW SWASH, BOSTON GAS TANK

The largest copyrighted artwork in the world at the time, painted on a working LNG vessel.

1972 VENTURI, SCOTT BROWN & IZENOUR

LEARNING FROM LAS VEGAS

The decorated shed: an ordinary building carrying an extraordinary sign. Venturi's warning that one does not paint on Mies is exactly the licence taken here.

1977 C. RAY SMITH

SUPERMANNERISM (BOOK)

The eyewitness account of 1960–1970, cataloguing the movement he had named.

1978 CHARLES MOORE

PIAZZA D'ITALIA, NEW ORLEANS

Colour and neon used as the ordering system of a classical plan; the orders themselves become graphic.

1984 SUSSMAN/PREJZA WITH JON JERDE

LOS ANGELES OLYMPICS URBAN KIT

Scaffold, fabric, columns and paint deployed as a temporary city-wide kit — the last great public outing of the method.

2010 UNIT EDITIONS

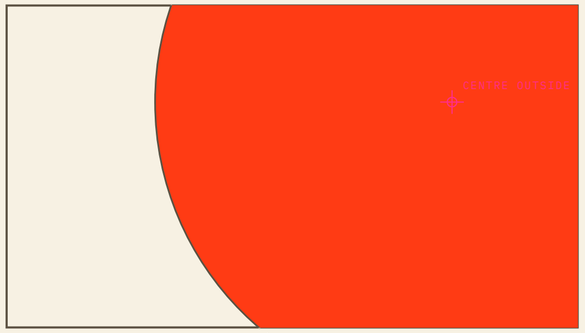
SUPERGRAPHICS: TRANSFORMING SPACE

The revival: the term loosens to mean any large environmental graphic, which Smith would have refused.

P-04

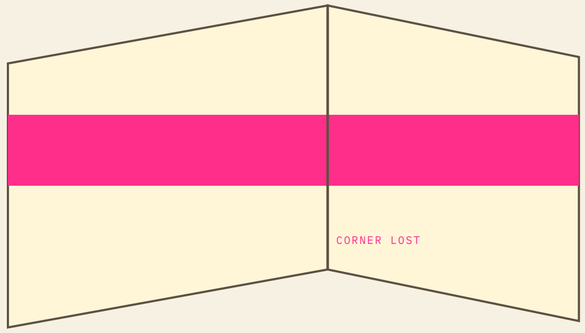
PRECEDENT II

01 THE DISC THAT EXCEEDS THE WALL — OPERATION 01



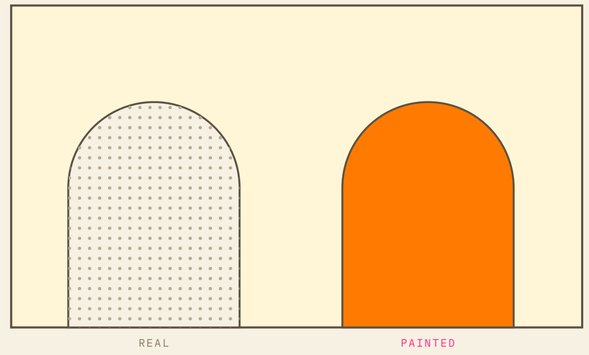
The compass centre is placed outside the building. What appears on the wall is a fragment; the whole figure is only inferable. Used on F-01, F-03, F-05.

02 THE CORNER TURNED — OPERATION 02



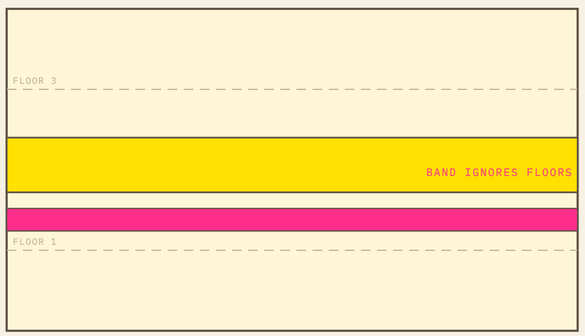
A band run across a corner removes the corner from perception. Smith's spatial claim in one move: the box is exploded by paint alone. Used on F-01, F-06.

03 THE FALSE APERTURE — OPERATION 03



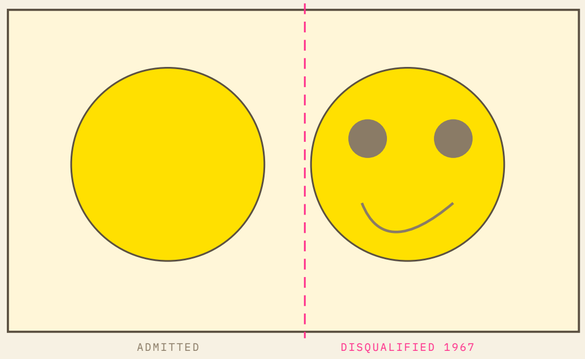
A painted arch is set beside a real one at the same size. The wall is now a claim about openings rather than a record of them. Used on F-04, F-06.

04 THE STRIPE THAT LEVELS — OPERATION 04



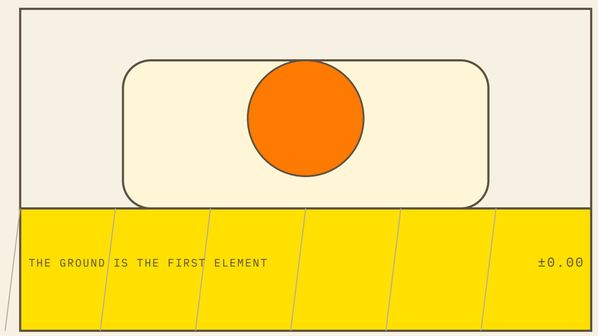
A horizontal band is run at a height that corresponds to no floor, so the interior cannot be read from outside. Used on F-07, F-02.

05 THE FIGURE EXCLUDED — OPERATION 05



Under the 1967 definition a graphic with eyes is not a supergraphic. F-04 breaches this deliberately and the breach is logged as an exception.

06 THE GROUND PAINTED — OPERATION 06



The datum is painted before the building. Every folly in this atlas stands on a yellow ground and the ground is drawn first.

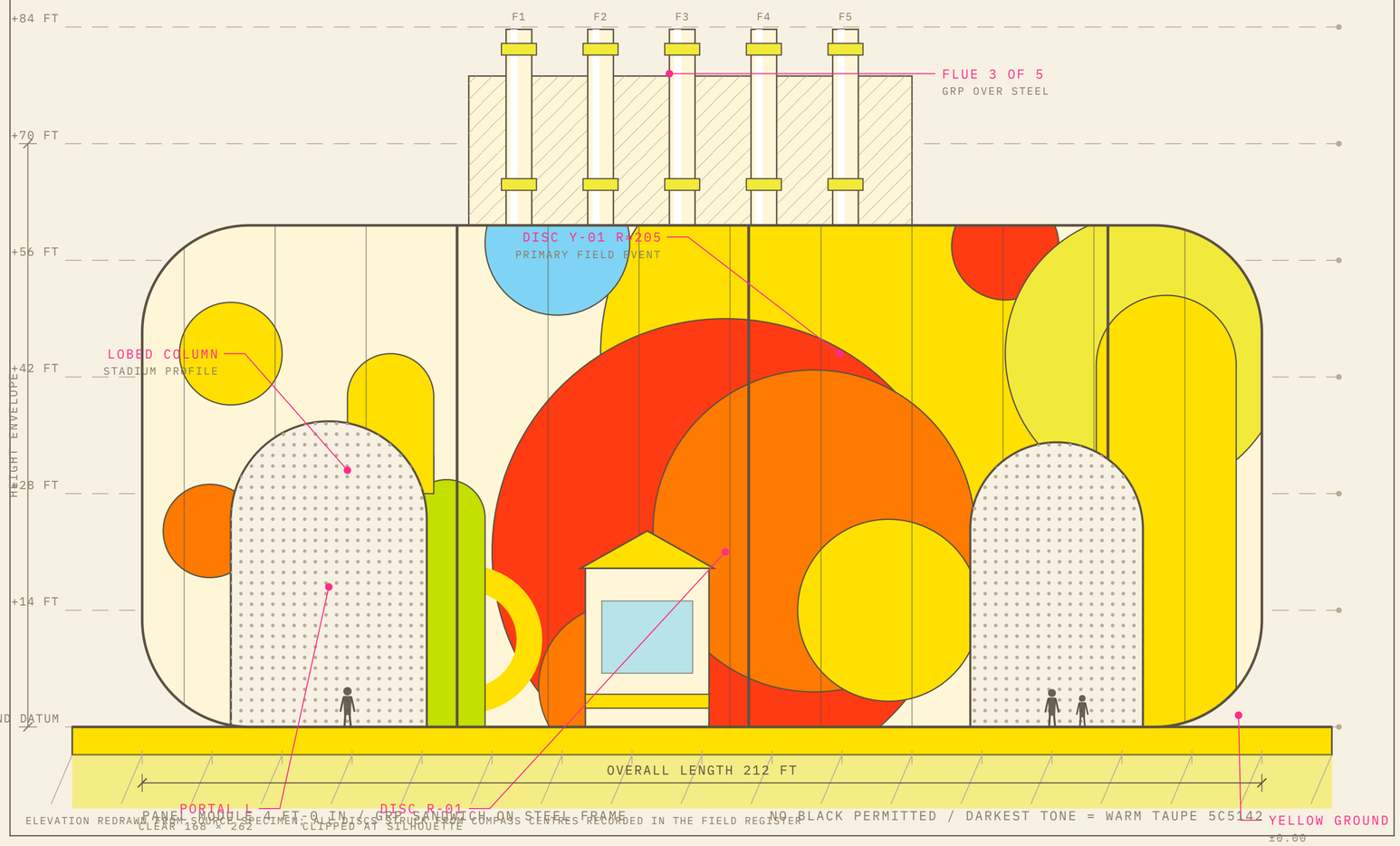
P-05

THE STACK BAR

VESSEL OF FIVE FLUES / LOZENGE BAR

SUPERGRAPHIC ELEVATION — PRINCIPAL FACE

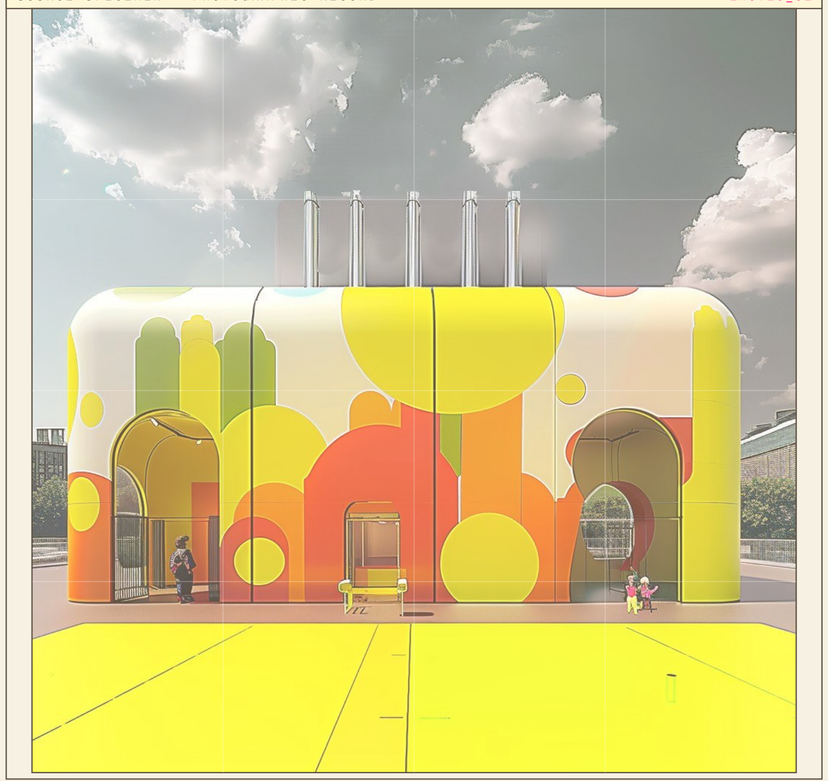
SCALE 1:200 / F-01



ELEVATION REDRAWN FROM SOURCE SPECIMEN — DISCS STRUCK FOR COMPASS CENTRES RECORDED IN THE FIELD REGISTER

SOURCE SPECIMEN — PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

240716_01



SPECIMEN DATA

F-01

FOOTPRINT	212 FT × 48 FT
PARAPET	38 FT / 11.6 M
FLUE CAP	64 FT / 19.5 M
CORNER R	R 18 FT-6 IN
PANEL MODULE	4 FT-0 IN GRP
APERTURES	2 PORTALS + 1 KIOSK
FIELD COUNT	11 DISCS / 3 LOBES / 1 RING
GROUND	YELLOW DATUM ±0.00

PALETTE REGISTER

BRIGHT ONLY

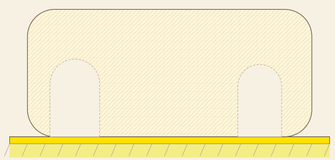
Y-01	Y-02	O-01	R-01
G-01	G-02	B-01	C-01

GEOMETRY FAMILY

LOZENGE BAR — stadium section, extruded

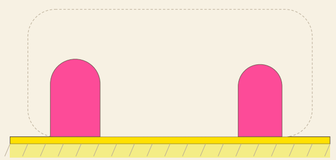
SITE ASSIGNED ▯ S-04

01 MASSING + SILHOUETTE



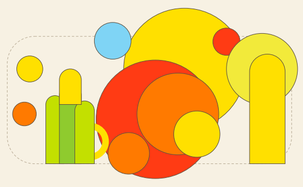
OUTLINE ONLY; APERTURES DASHED

02 APERTURE RHYTHM



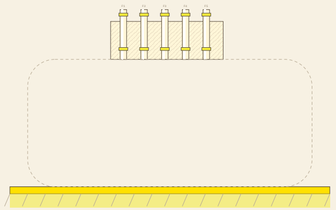
VOIDS SHOWN SOLID MAGENTA

03 CHROMATIC FIELD



DISCS UNCLIPPED, SILHOUETTE GHOSTED

04 ROOF APPARATUS



ELEMENTS LEAVING THE SILHOUETTE

READING

PRECEDENT + COMMENTARY

A single lozenge in plan, 212 feet long, is painted as though the disc field were projected onto it from a great distance and stopped mid-flight. The five flues are the only elements permitted to leave the silhouette.

PRECEDENT

SEA RANCH, MOONRAKER ATHLETIC CLUB — B. STAUFFACHER SOLOMON WITH MLTW, 1966

PROGRAMME

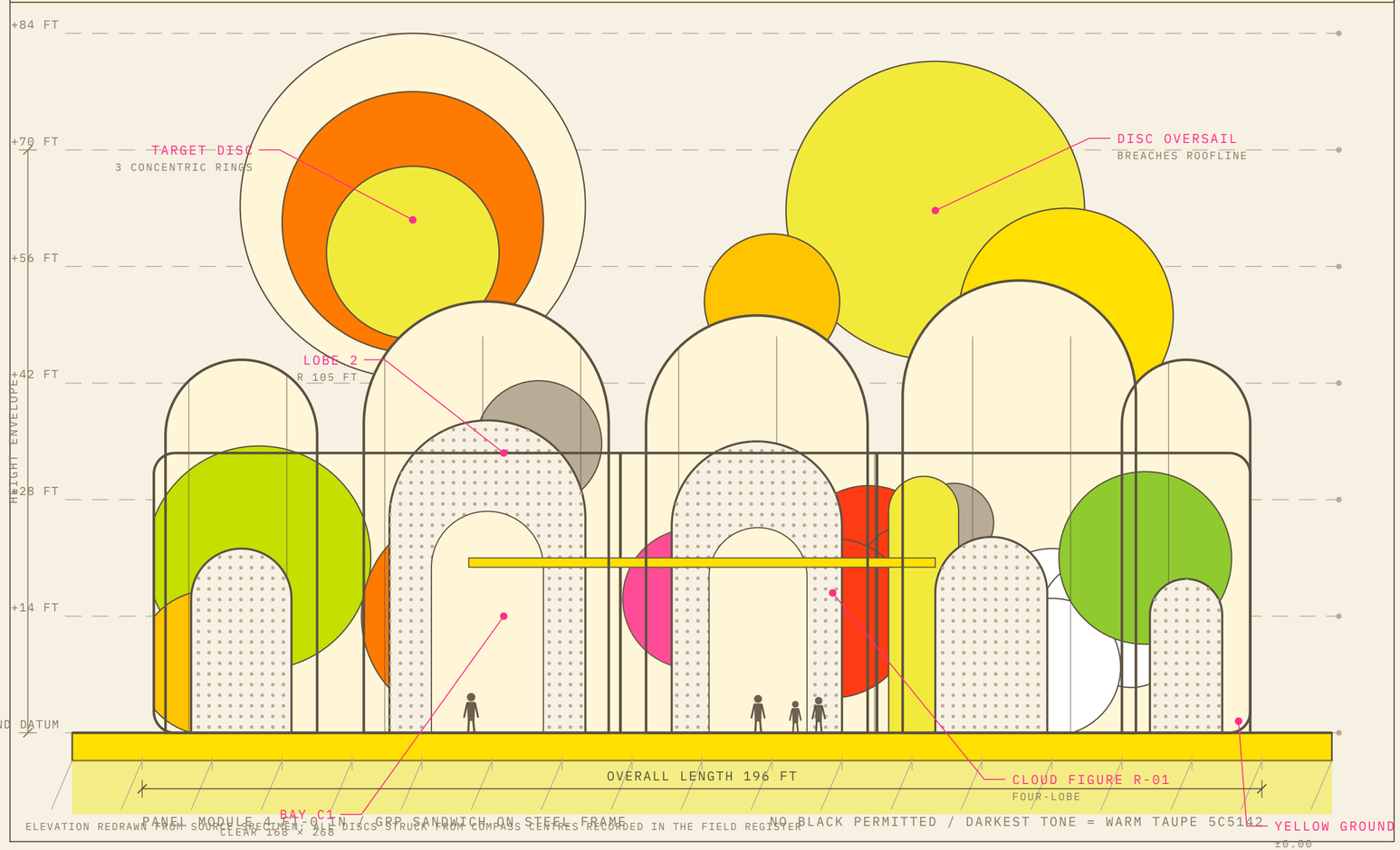
AIR WASH BAR / FIVE-FLUE EXHAUST GALLERY / PUBLIC BENCH ON BOTH LONG FACES

P-06

THE LOBED ARCADE

SUPERGRAPHIC ELEVATION — PRINCIPAL FACE

SCALE 1:200 / F-02



ELEVATION REDRAWN FROM SOURCE SPECIMEN — DISCS STRUCK FROM COMPASS CENTRES RECORDED IN THE FIELD REGISTER — NO BLACK PERMITTED / DARKEST TONE = WARM TAUPE 5C5142

SOURCE SPECIMEN — PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

240716_03

SPECIMEN DATA

F-02

FOOTPRINT	196 FT × 62 FT
HIGH LOBE	47 FT / 14.3 M
DISC OVERSAIL	18 FT BEYOND ROOF
LOBE RADII	R 55 / 90 / 100 FT
PANEL MODULE	4 FT-0 IN GRP
APERTURES	5 ARCHED BAYS
FIELD COUNT	14 DISCS / 2 CLOUDS
GROUND	YELLOW DATUM ±0.00

PALETTE REGISTER

BRIGHT ONLY

Y-02 · Y-01 · Y-03 · O-01

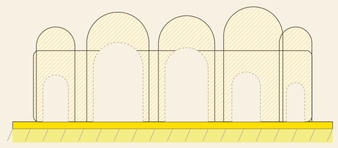
R-01 · M-01 · G-01 · C-01

GEOMETRY FAMILY

STADIUM CLUSTER — five lobes, seven bays

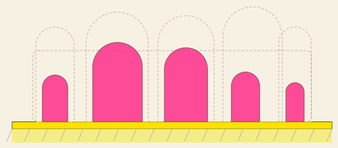
SITE ASSIGNED □ S-08

01 MASSING + SILHOUETTE



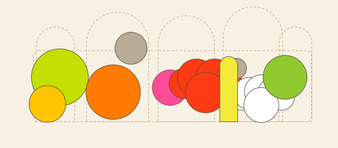
OUTLINE ONLY; APERTURES DASHED

02 APERTURE RHYTHM



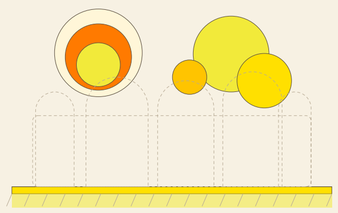
VOIDS SHOWN SOLID MAGENTA

03 CHROMATIC FIELD



DISCS UNCLIPPED, SILHOUETTE GHOSTED

04 ROOF APPARATUS



ELEMENTS LEAVING THE SILHOUETTE

READING

PRECEDENT + COMMENTARY

The elevation is a weather front. Five stadium lobes rise to different heights and three discs are permitted to breach the roofline, so the building reads as cumulus that has been stopped and given doors.

PRECEDENT

MEXICO 68 OLYMPIC IDENTITY — L. WYMAN, E. TERRAZAS, P. RAMÍREZ VÁZQUEZ

PROGRAMME

OPEN ARCADE / SHADE MARKET / FOUR CONCENTRIC DISC ROOMS BEHIND THE FRONT

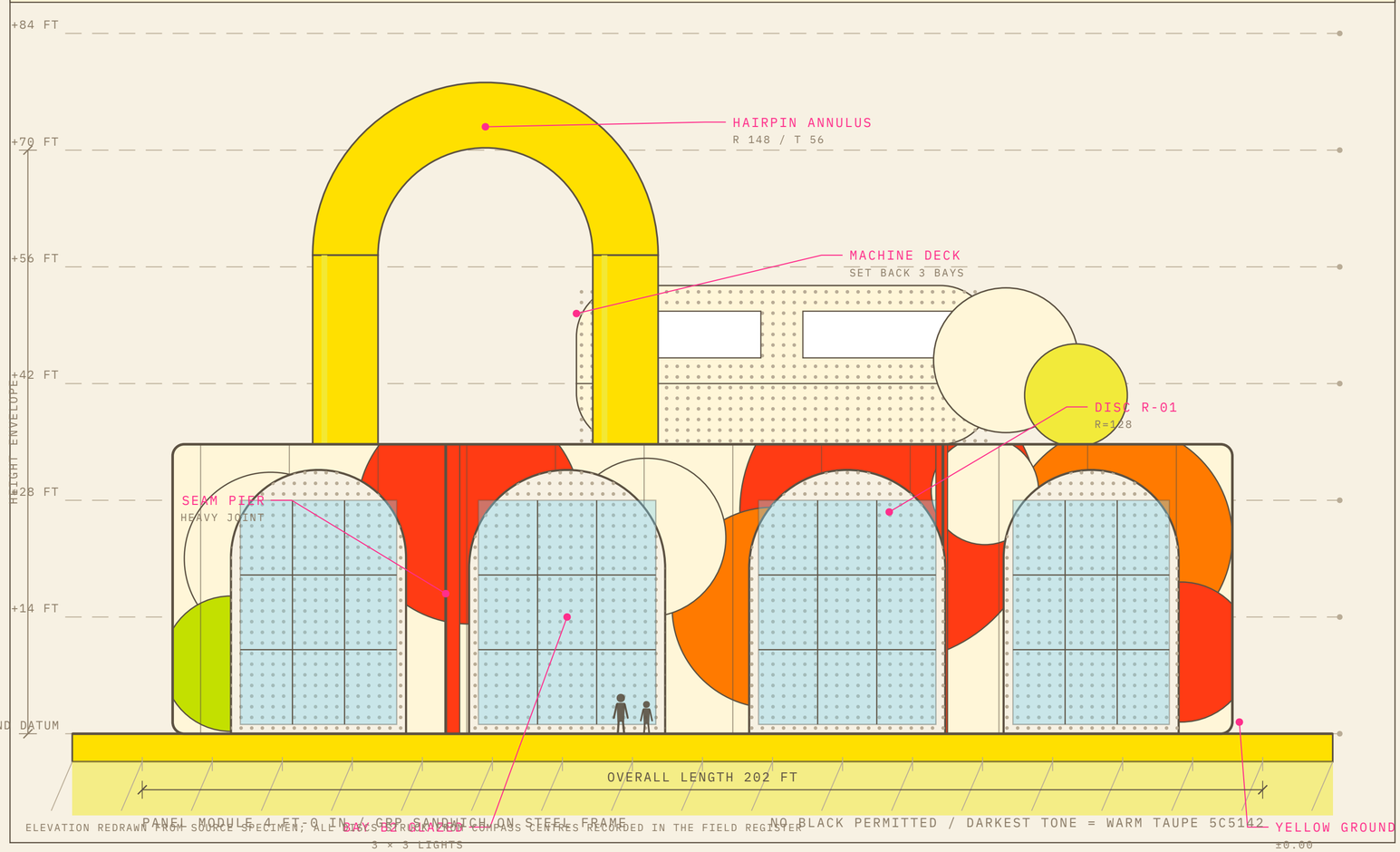
P-07

THE HAIRPIN

THE SINGLE STAPLE / ANNULUS + FOUR-BAY BLOCK

SUPERGRAPHIC ELEVATION — PRINCIPAL FACE

SCALE 1:200 / F-03



ELEVATION REDRAWN FROM SOURCE SPECIMEN; ALL BAYS BRACKETED COMPASS CENTRES RECORDED IN THE FIELD REGISTER

SOURCE SPECIMEN — PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

240716_04

SPECIMEN DATA

F-03

FOOTPRINT	202 FT × 54 FT
BLOCK PARAPET	26 FT / 7.9 M
HAIRPIN CROWN	78 FT / 23.8 M
ANNULUS	R 148 / R 92 (T=56)
PANEL MODULE	4 FT-0 IN GRP
APERTURES	4 GLAZED BAYS
FIELD COUNT	9 DISCS / 2 PIERS
GROUND	YELLOW DATUM ±0.00

PALETTE REGISTER

BRIGHT ONLY

Y-01 · Y-02 · O-01 · R-01

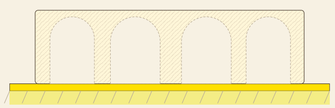
C-01 · G-01 · B-01 · W-01

GEOMETRY FAMILY

ANNULUS + FOUR-BAY BLOCK

SITE ASSIGNED □ S-07

01 MASSING + SILHOUETTE



OUTLINE ONLY; APERTURES DASHED

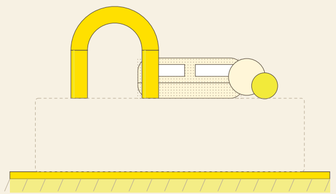
02 APERTURE RHYTHM

VOIDS SHOWN SOLID MAGENTA

03 CHROMATIC FIELD

DISCS UNCLIPPED, SILHOUETTE GHOSTED

04 ROOF APPARATUS



ELEMENTS LEAVING THE SILHOUETTE

READING

PRECEDENT + COMMENTARY

One monumental hairpin, 78 feet to the crown, stands clear of the block it serves. It is not a portal — nothing passes beneath it — which is precisely the argument: the sign has become the only monumental element.

PRECEDENT

VENTURI & SHORT, GRAND'S RESTAURANT, PHILADELPHIA, 1962 — THE DECORATED SHED

PROGRAMME

ENTRY HALL UNDER A SIGN / THE HAIRPIN IS STRUCTURE AND LETTERFORM AT ONCE

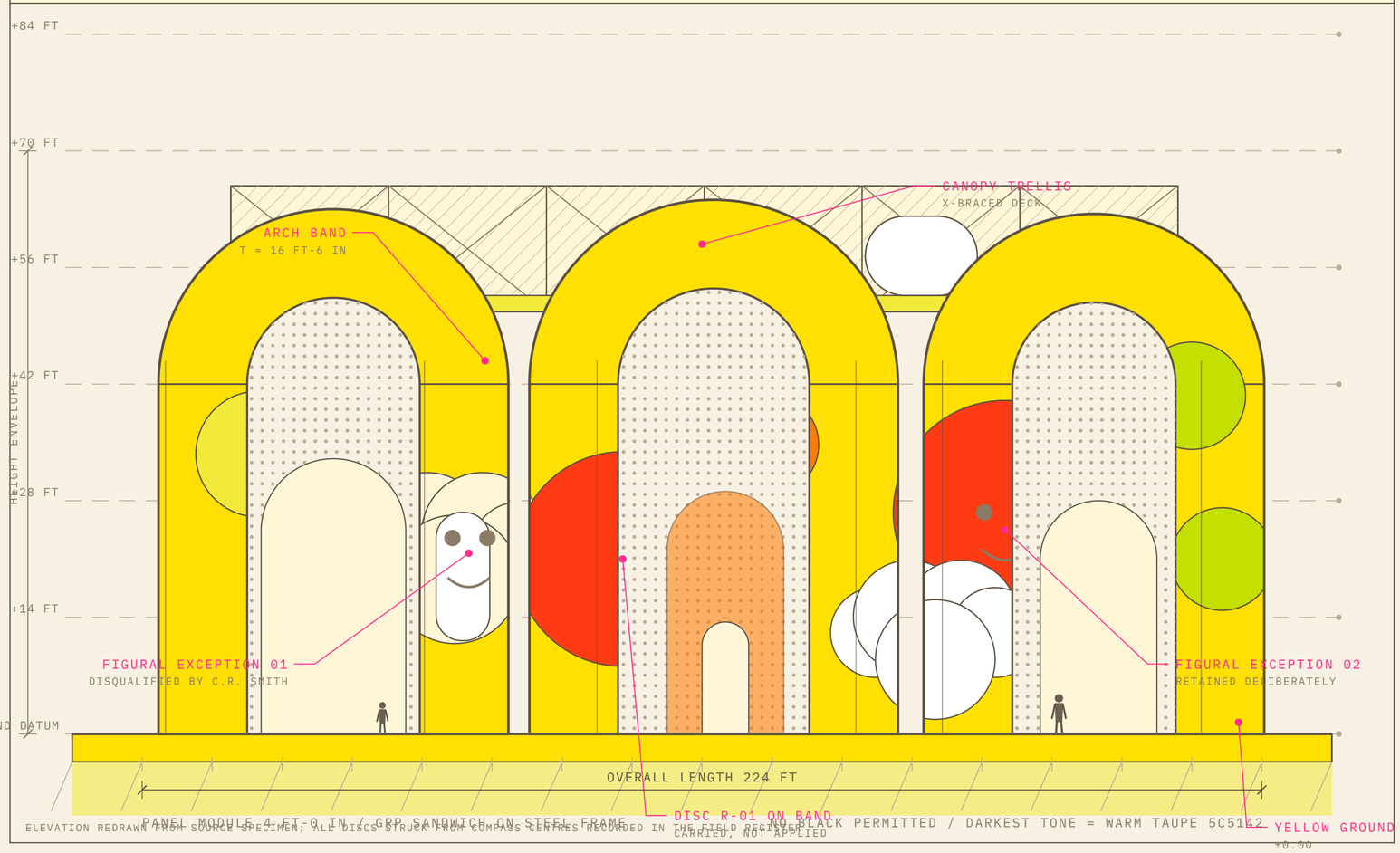
P-08

THE TRIPLE PORTAL

THE THREE MOUTHS / FREE-STANDING ANNULAR ARCHES + CANOPY

SUPERGRAPHIC ELEVATION — PRINCIPAL FACE

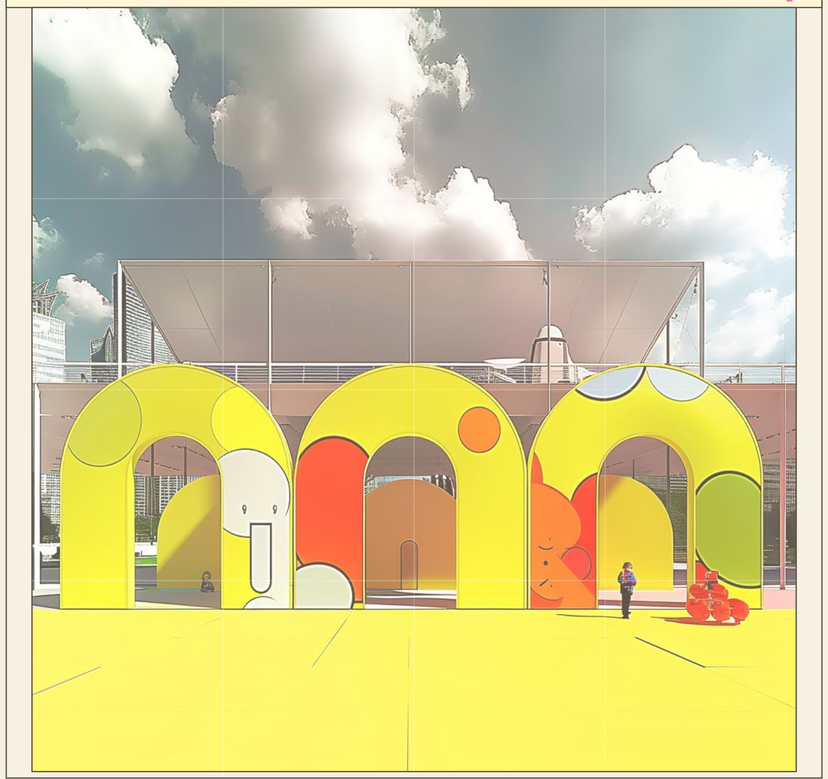
SCALE 1:200 / F-04



ELEVATION REDRAWN FROM SOURCE SPECIMEN; ALL DISCS STRUCK FROM COMPASS CENTRES RECORDED IN THE FIELD REGISTER

SOURCE SPECIMEN — PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

240716_05



SPECIMEN DATA

F-04

FOOTPRINT	224 FT × 30 FT
ARCH CROWN	52 FT / 15.8 M
BAND THICKNESS	T = 16 FT-6 IN
SPANS	300 / 316 / 292
CANOPY DECK	62 FT / 18.9 M
APERTURES	3 PORTALS, OPEN BOTH SIDES
FIELD COUNT	12 DISCS / 2 CLOUDS / 2 FACES
GROUND	YELLOW DATUM ±0.00

PALETTE REGISTER

BRIGHT ONLY

Y-01 · Y-02 · O-01 · R-01

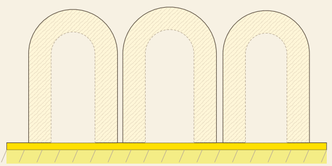
G-01 · C-01 · W-01 · N-01

GEOMETRY FAMILY

FREE-STANDING ANNULAR ARCHES + CANOPY

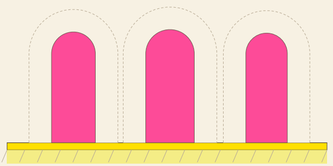
SITE ASSIGNED □ S-05

01 MASSING + SILHOUETTE



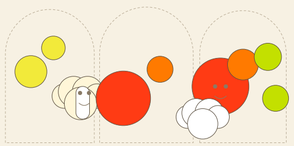
OUTLINE ONLY; APERTURES DASHED

02 APERTURE RHYTHM



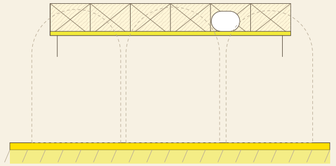
VOIDS SHOWN SOLID MAGENTA

03 CHROMATIC FIELD



DISCS UNCLIPPED, SILHOUETTE GHOSTED

04 ROOF APPARATUS



ELEMENTS LEAVING THE SILHOUETTE

READING

PRECEDENT + COMMENTARY

Three arch bands carry the field and nothing else. Note the two figural inclusions: under C. Ray Smith's strict 1967 definition, graphics with eyes are disqualified from the category. They are retained here as a deliberate breach, logged in the register as FIGURAL EXCEPTION 01 and 02.

PRECEDENT

ARCHIGRAM, INSTANT CITY, 1969 — THE EVENT STRUCTURE AS GRAPHIC ARMATURE

PROGRAMME

THRESHOLD ONLY / NO ENCLOSURE / A GATE THAT IS ENTIRELY FAÇADE ON BOTH FACES

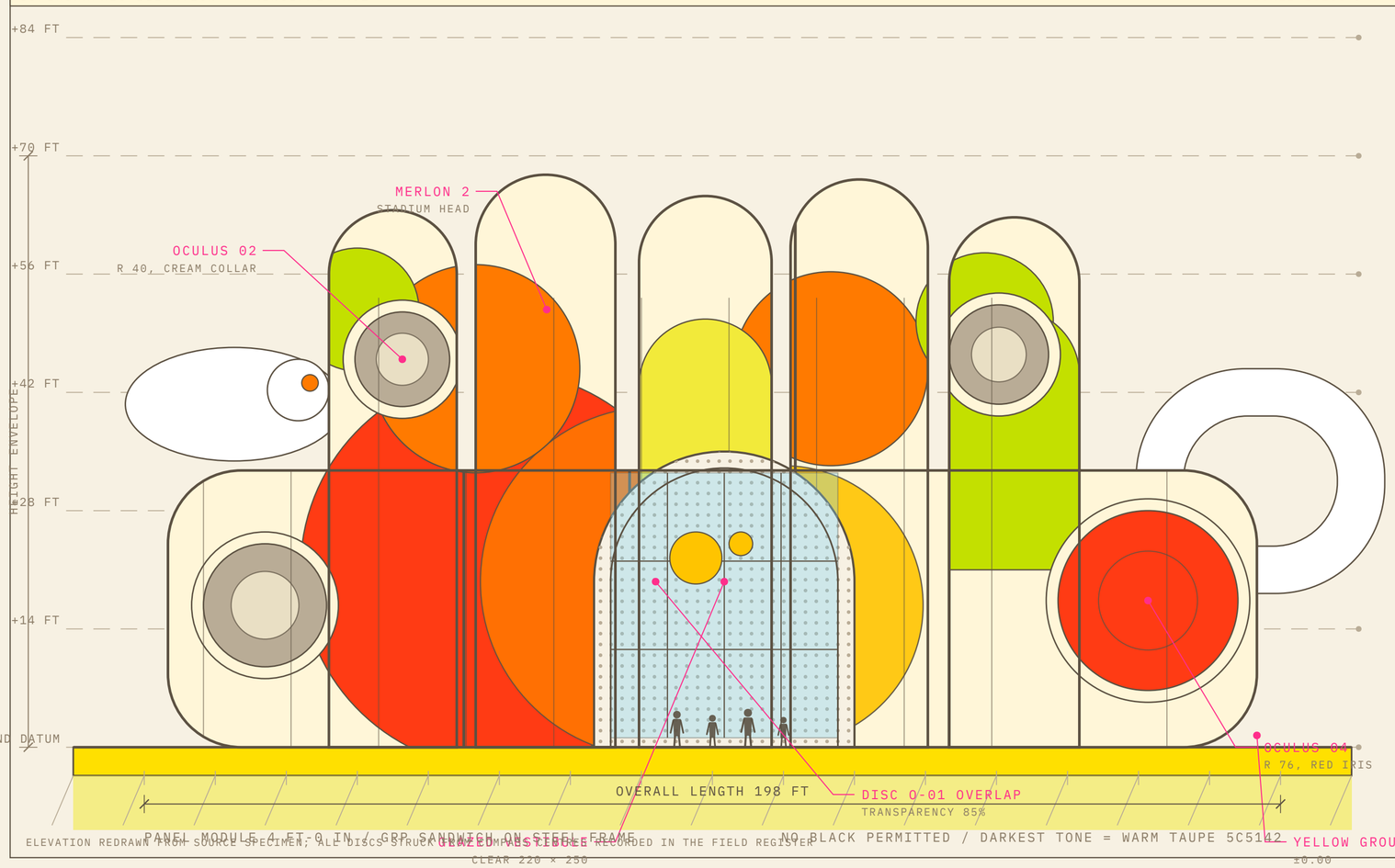
P-09

THE CRENELLATED OCULUS

THE FOUR EYES / MERLON PARAPET + OCULUS FIELD

SUPERGRAPHIC ELEVATION — PRINCIPAL FACE

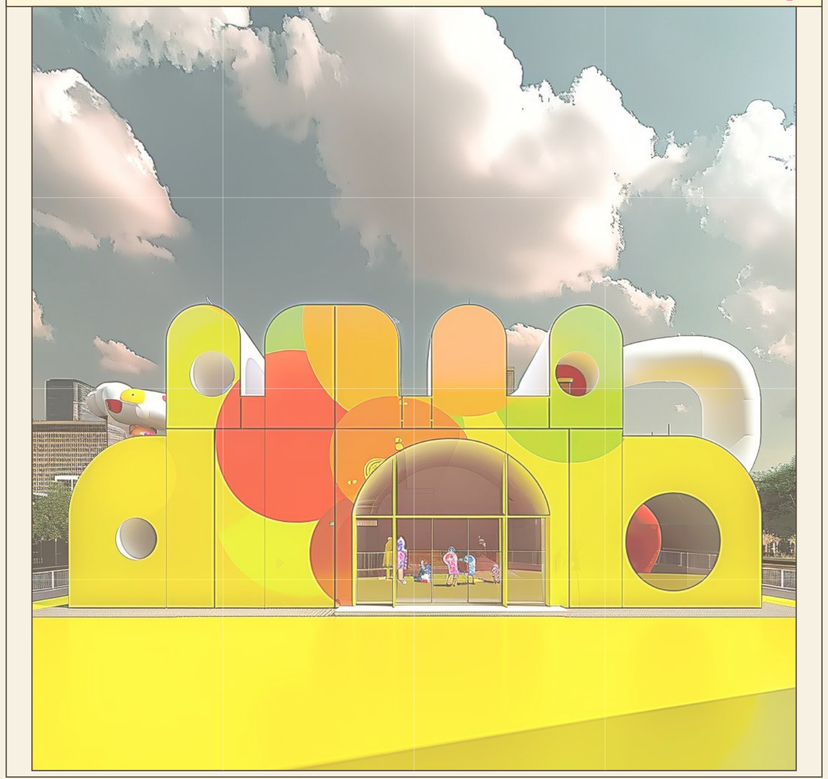
SCALE 1:200 / F-05



ELEVATION REDRAWN FROM SOURCE SPECIMEN; ALL DISCS STRUCK FROM A COMPASS RECORDED IN THE FIELD REGISTER

SOURCE SPECIMEN — PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

240716_06



SPECIMEN DATA

F-05

FOOTPRINT	198 FT × 72 FT
LOW PARAPET	31 FT / 9.4 M
HIGH MERLON	54 FT / 16.5 M
MERLONS	5 NO., R 55–59 FT
OCULI	4 NO., R 40–76
APERTURES	1 GLAZED VESTIBULE
FIELD COUNT	10 DISCS / 2 LOZENGES
GROUND	YELLOW DATUM ±0.00

PALETTE REGISTER

BRIGHT ONLY

Y-01 · Y-03 · O-01 · R-01

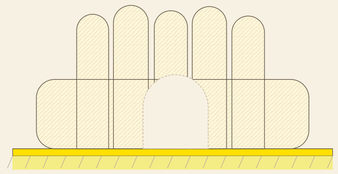
G-01 · C-01 · B-01 · N-01

GEOMETRY FAMILY

MERLON PARAPET + OCULUS FIELD

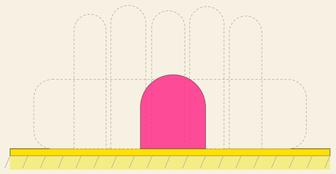
SITE ASSIGNED □ S-11

01 MASSING + SILHOUETTE



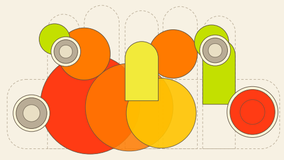
OUTLINE ONLY; APERTURES DASHED

02 APERTURE RHYTHM



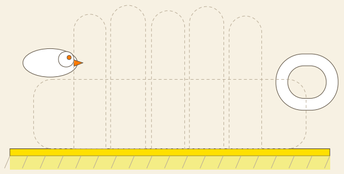
VOIDS SHOWN SOLID MAGENTA

03 CHROMATIC FIELD



DISCS UNCLIPPED, SILHOUETTE GHOSTED

04 ROOF APPARATUS



ELEMENTS LEAVING THE SILHOUETTE

READING

PRECEDENT + COMMENTARY

A castle profile drawn with a compass. The four oculi are cut without regard to the disc field beneath them, so each eye takes a different colour from whatever it happens to interrupt.

PRECEDENT

CHARLES MOORE, PIAZZA D'ITALIA, NEW ORLEANS, 1978 — COLOUR AS ORDER

PROGRAMME

CHILDREN'S ROOM / THE OCULI ARE THE ONLY WINDOWS AND THEY DO NOT ALIGN WITH FLOORS

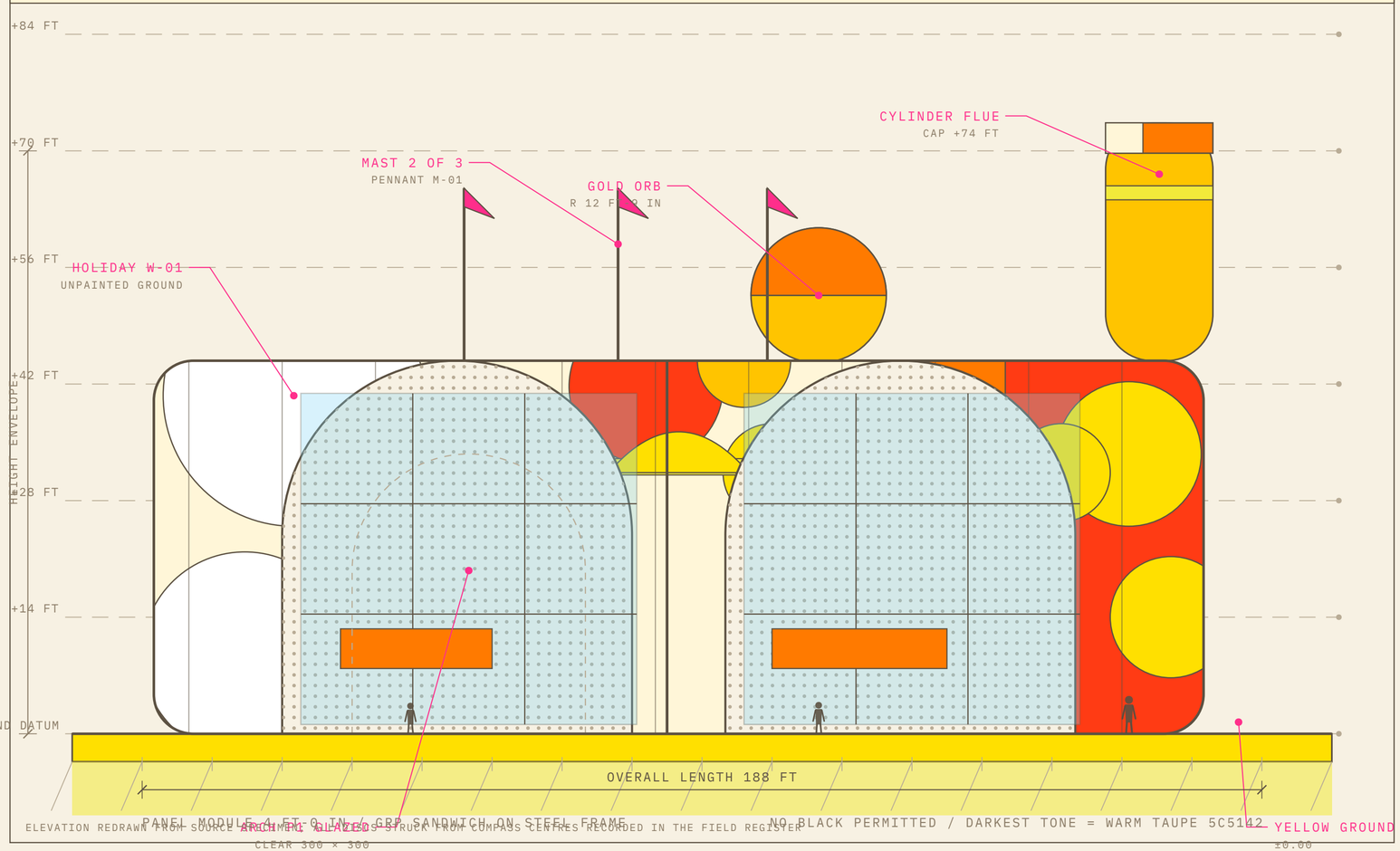
P-10

THE TWIN ARCH MASTHOUSE

THE ORB AND THE FLUE / TWIN ARCH BLOCK + CYLINDER + ORB

SUPERGRAPHIC ELEVATION — PRINCIPAL FACE

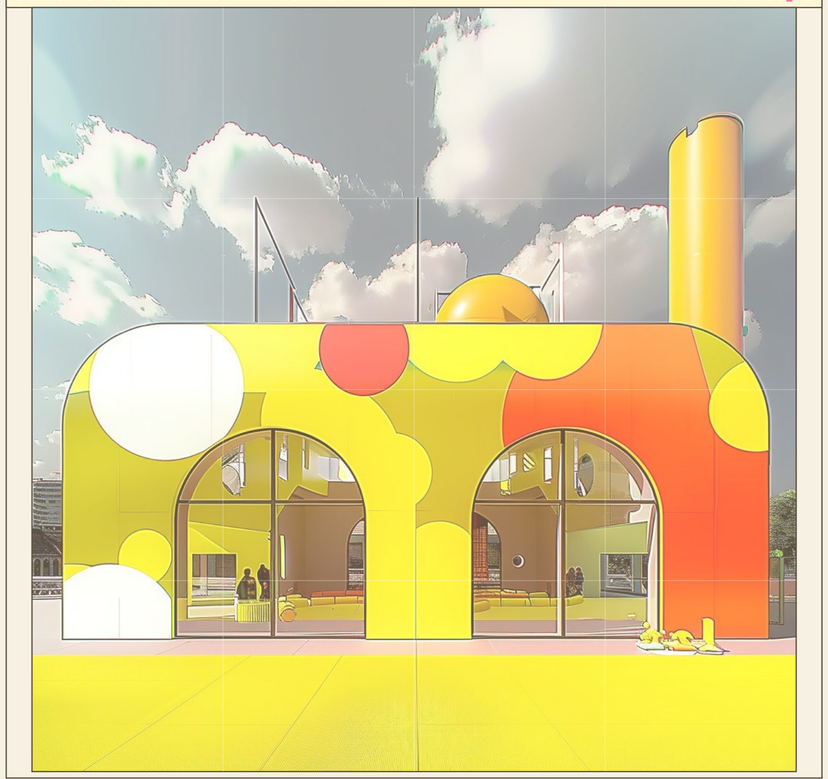
SCALE 1:200 / F-06



ELEVATION REDRAWN FROM SOURCE ARCHIVE — STRUCK FROM COMPASS CENTRES RECORDED IN THE FIELD REGISTER

SOURCE SPECIMEN — PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

240715_01



SPECIMEN DATA

F-06

FOOTPRINT	188 FT × 58 FT
PARAPET	42 FT / 12.8 M
FLUE CAP	74 FT / 22.6 M
ORB	R 12 FT-9 IN, GOLD
MASTS	3 NO., 46 FT
APERTURES	2 ARCHES, FULLY GLAZED
FIELD COUNT	13 DISCS / 1 SCALLOP BAND
GROUND	YELLOW DATUM ±0.00

PALETTE REGISTER

BRIGHT ONLY

Y-01 · Y-03 · O-01 · R-01

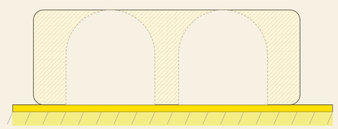
M-01 · W-01 · B-01 · Y-02

GEOMETRY FAMILY

TWIN ARCH BLOCK + CYLINDER + ORB

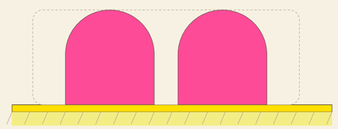
SITE ASSIGNED □ S-10

01 MASSING + SILHOUETTE



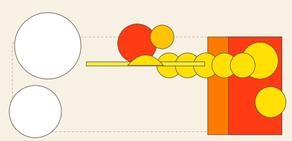
OUTLINE ONLY; APERTURES DASHED

02 APERTURE RHYTHM



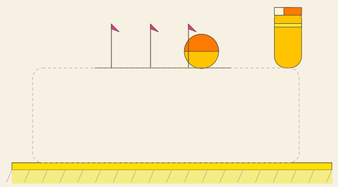
VOIDS SHOWN SOLID MAGENTA

03 CHROMATIC FIELD



DISCS UNCLIPPED, SILHOUETTE GHOSTED

04 ROOF APPARATUS



ELEMENTS LEAVING THE SILHOUETTE

READING

PRECEDENT + COMMENTARY

The most conventional plan of the seven and the least conventional roof: an orb, three masts and a cylinder flue, none of which serve the room below. The white discs are holidays in the field — unpainted ground, not white paint.

PRECEDENT

D. SUSSMAN & J. JERDE, LOS ANGELES
OLYMPICS URBAN KIT, 1984

PROGRAMME

READING ROOM / TWO ARCHES OF GLASS FACING THE RIVER, ONE FLUE FACING THE CITY

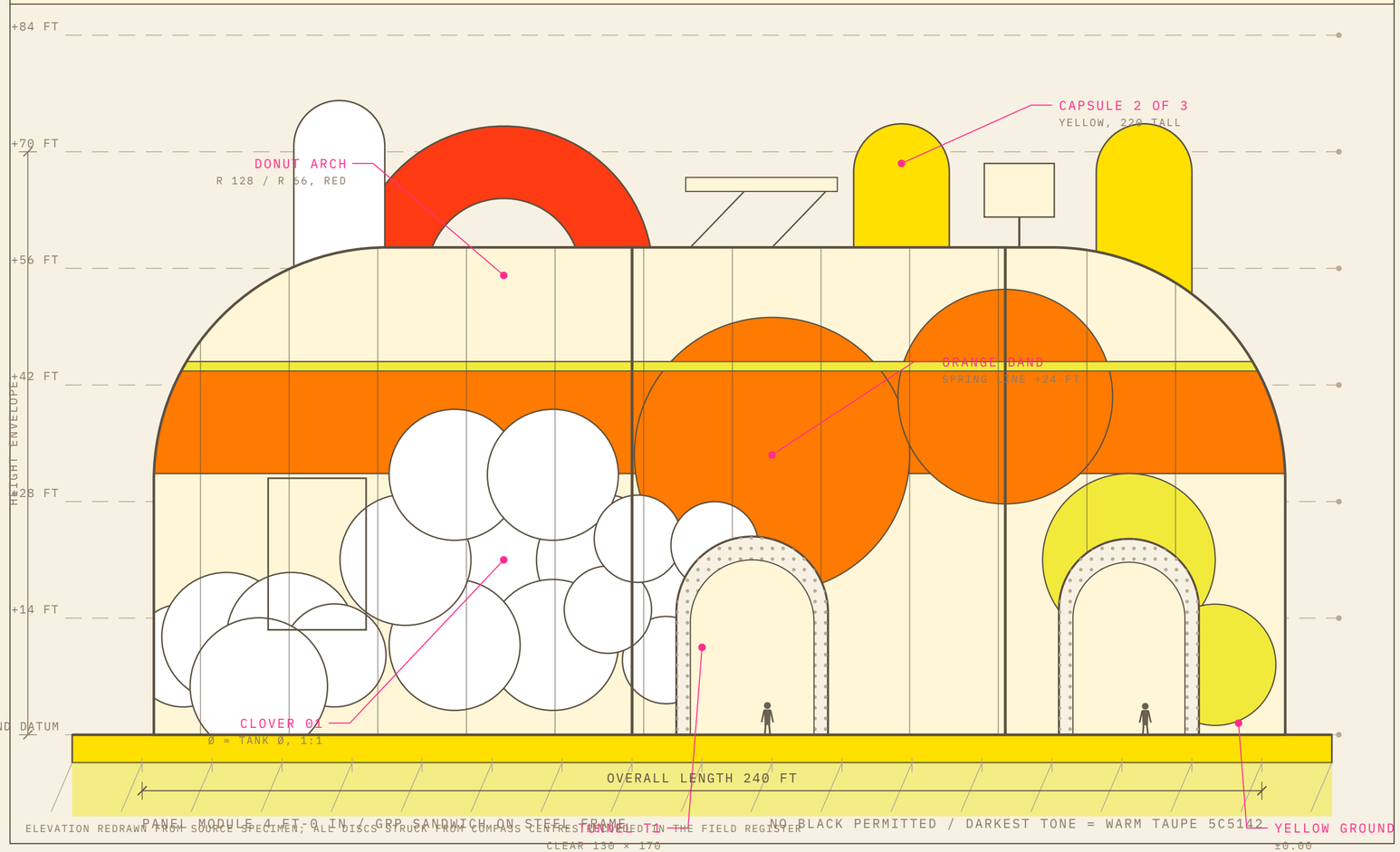
P-11

THE VAULTED TANKFARM

THE CLOVER SHED / BARREL VAULT + CAPSULE BATTERY

SUPERGRAPHIC ELEVATION — PRINCIPAL FACE

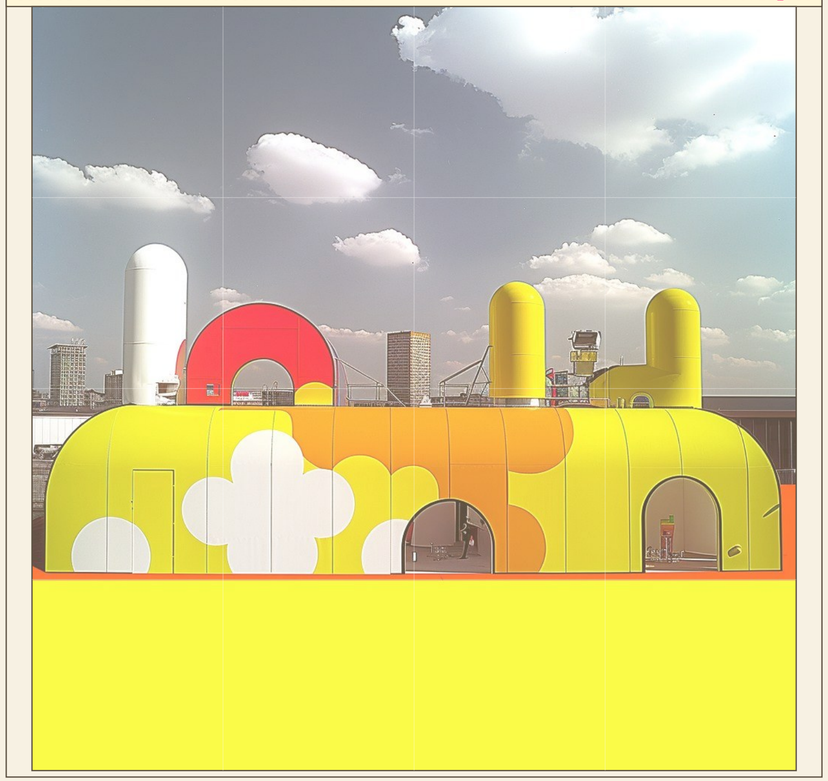
SCALE 1:200 / F-07



ELEVATION REDRAWN FROM SOURCE SPECIMEN; ALL DISCS STRUCK FROM COMPASS CENTRES

SOURCE SPECIMEN — PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

240711_033



SPECIMEN DATA

F-07

FOOTPRINT	240 FT × 66 FT
VAULT SPRING	24 FT / 7.3 M
VAULT CROWN	50 FT / 15.2 M
VAULT RADIUS	R 48 FT-9 IN
CAPSULES	3 NO. + 1 DONUT ARCH
APERTURES	2 ARCHED TUNNELS
FIELD COUNT	2 CLOVERS / 1 CLOUD / 6 DISCS
GROUND	YELLOW DATUM ±0.00

PALETTE REGISTER

BRIGHT ONLY

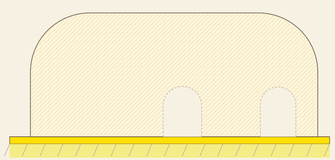
Y-01	Y-02	O-01	R-01
W-01	C-01	N-01	Y-03

GEOMETRY FAMILY

BARREL VAULT + CAPSULE BATTERY

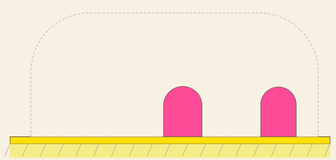
SITE ASSIGNED □ S-01

01 MASSING + SILHOUETTE



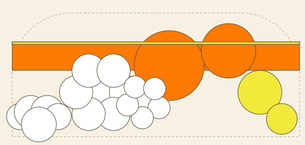
OUTLINE ONLY; APERTURES DASHED

02 APERTURE RHYTHM



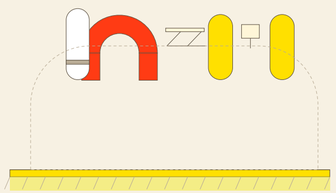
VOIDS SHOWN SOLID MAGENTA

03 CHROMATIC FIELD



DISCS UNCLIPPED, SILHOUETTE GHOSTED

04 ROOF APPARATUS



ELEMENTS LEAVING THE SILHOUETTE

READING

PRECEDENT + COMMENTARY

The one industrial vessel in the register, and the one whose graphic was sized from the equipment rather than the wall: each clover is exactly the diameter of the tank it hides.

PRECEDENT

SISTER CORITA KENT, RAINBOW SWASH, BOSTON GAS TANK, 1971

PROGRAMME

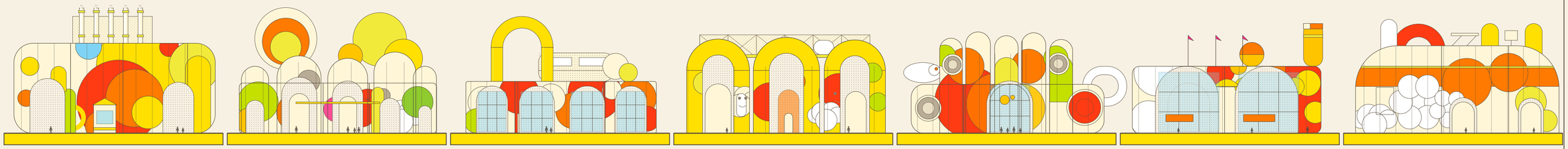
TIDAL PLANT / THE CLOVERS ARE PAINTED AT 1:1 WITH THE STORAGE VESSELS BEHIND

P-12

COMPARATIVE MORPHOLOGY

THE SEVEN AT ONE SCALE

THE SEVEN, ALIGNED ON THE GROUND DATUM — SCALE 1:400



F-01
THE STACK BAR
LOZENGE BAR

F-02
THE LOBED ARCADE
STADIUM CLUSTER

F-03
THE HAIRPIN
ANNULUS + BLOCK

F-04
THE TRIPLE PORTAL
ANNULAR GATE

F-05
THE CRENELLATED OCULUS
MERLON BLOCK

F-06
THE TWIN ARCH MASTHOUSE
TWIN ARCH

F-07
THE VAULTED TANKFARM
BARREL VAULT

ATTRIBUTE MATRIX — SEVEN SPECIMENS × TEN ATTRIBUTES

ATTRIBUTE	F-01	F-02	F-03	F-04	F-05	F-06	F-07
GEOMETRY FAMILY	LOZENGE BAR	STADIUM CLUSTER	ANNULUS + BLOCK	ANNULAR GATE	MERLON BLOCK	TWIN ARCH	BARREL VAULT
LENGTH (FT)	212	196	202	224	198	188	240
DEPTH (FT)	48	62	54	30	72	58	66
HEIGHT (FT)	64	47	78	62	54	74	50
APERTURES	3	5	4	3	1	2	2
DISCS IN FIELD	11	14	9	12	10	13	8
ROOF APPARATUS	5 FLUES	3 DISCS	MACHINE DECK	CANOPY	5 MERLONS	ORB + FLUE + 3 MASTS	3 CAPSULES + DONUT
PRIMARY COLOUR	YELLOW	LEMON	YELLOW	YELLOW	GOLD	GOLD	YELLOW
SITE	S-04	S-08	S-07	S-05	S-11	S-10	S-01
OVERSCALE ON PLATE	×5	×6	×5	×5	×6	×5	×5

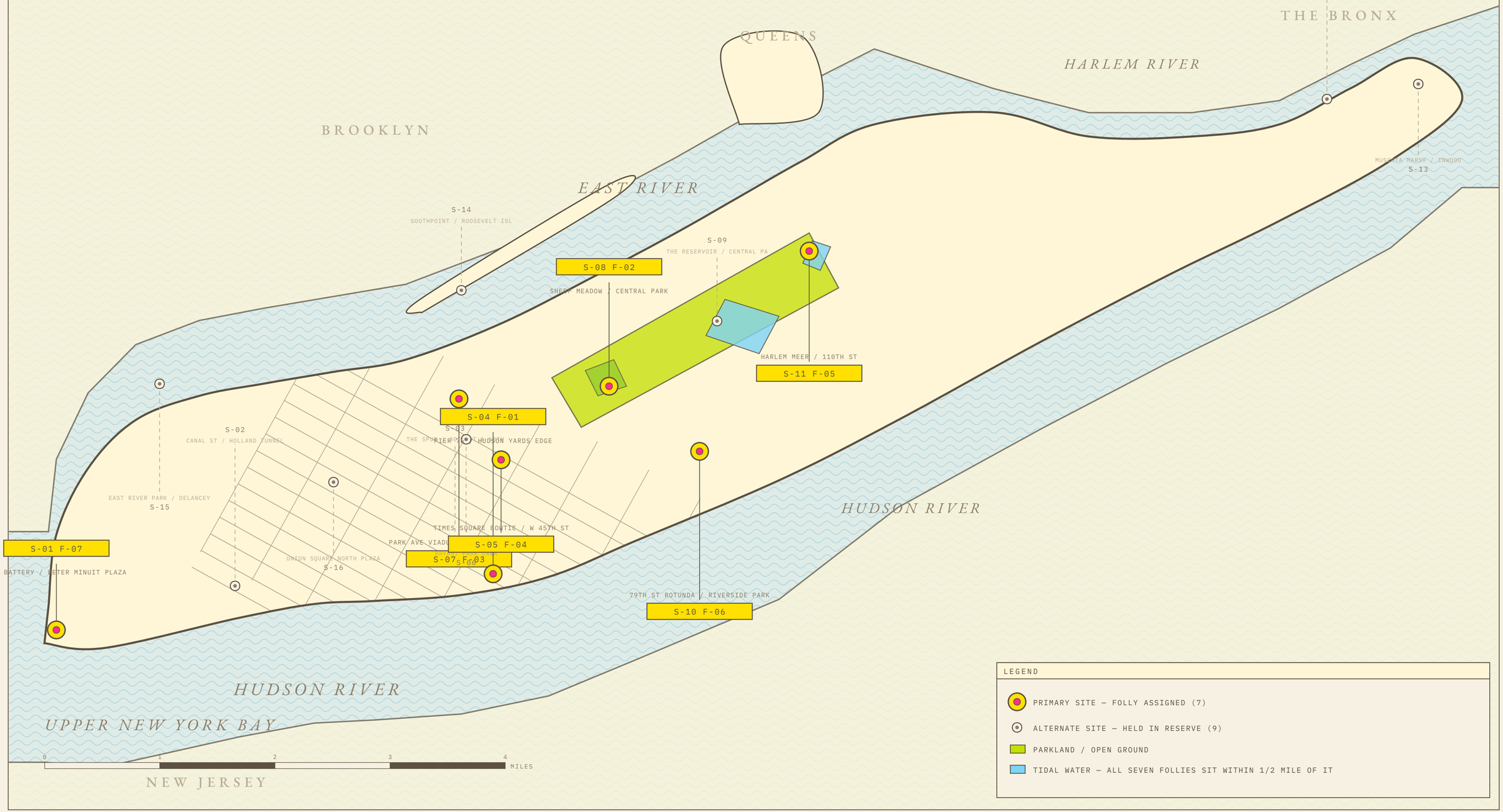
P-13

THE ISLAND REGISTER

SIXTEEN SPECULATIVE SITES / SEVEN ASSIGNED

THE ISLAND OF MANNAHATTA — SITING REGISTER

APPROX. 1:37 000 / 16 SITES / 1 UNIT = 36.4 FT



LEGEND

- PRIMARY SITE — FOLLY ASSIGNED (7)
- ALTERNATE SITE — HELD IN RESERVE (9)
- PARKLAND / OPEN GROUND
- TIDAL WATER — ALL SEVEN FOLLIES SIT WITHIN 1/2 MILE OF IT

P-14

S-01 THE BATTERY

F-07 THE VAULTED TANKFARM AT ×5 OVERSCALE

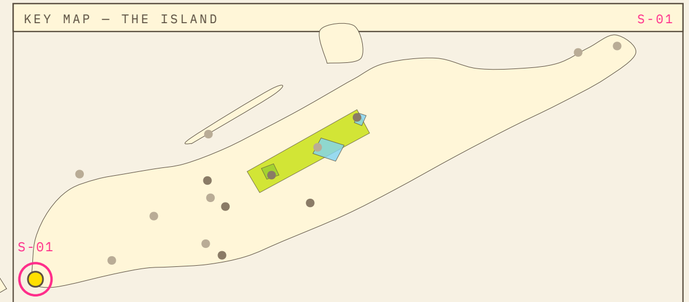
SITE PLAN — THE BATTERY / PETER MINUIT PLAZA

1 IN = 100 FT / ×5

FOLLY FOOTPRINT SHOWN AT ×5 TRUE LENGTH — AN ARGUMENT, NOT A PROPOSAL

KEY MAP — THE ISLAND

S-01



NORTH TO THE RIGHT

SITE DATA

S-01

SITE	THE BATTERY / PETER MINUIT PLAZA
STATUS	PRIMARY
FOLLY	F-07 THE VAULTED TANKFARM
TRUE FOOTPRINT	240 FT × 66 FT
SHOWN AT	×5 = 1200 FT × 330 FT
BEARING	-30° FROM PLAN NORTH
GROUND	MADE GROUND OVER LANDFILL, 1855–
TRANSIT	1 / R / W / SI FERRY
COORDINATE	40.7020, -74.0148
PLAN WINDOW	2000 FT × 1620 FT

OVERSCALE STUDY

×1 ×2 ×4

TRUE FOLLY	240 FT
SHOWN ×5	1200 FT
MANHATTAN BLOCK	800 FT
FLATIRON, LONG SIDE	190 FT
EMPIRE STATE, HEIGHT	1250 FT

READING

SITE NOTE

HARBOUR MOUTH. The vault is set broadside to the water and reads first from the ferry.

ORIENTATION

THE VAULT IS SET BROADSIDE TO THE HARBOUR

PRECEDENT FOR THE FIELD: SISTER CORITA KENT, RAINBOW SWASH, BOS

P-15

S-04 PIER 76

F-01 THE STACK BAR AT ×5 OVERSCALE

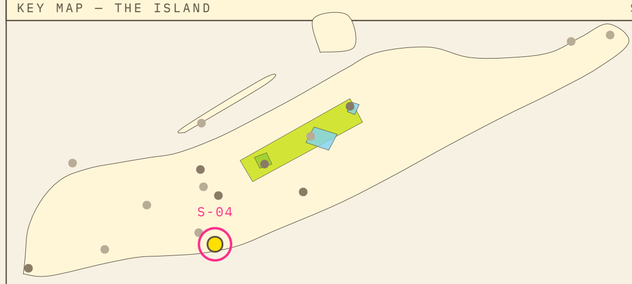
SITE PLAN — PIER 76 / HUDSON YARDS EDGE

1 IN = 100 FT / ×5

FOLLY FOOTPRINT SHOWN AT ×5 TRUE LENGTH — AN ARGUMENT, NOT A PROPOSAL

KEY MAP — THE ISLAND

S-04



NORTH TO THE RIGHT

SITE DATA

S-04

SITE	PIER 76 / HUDSON YARDS EDGE
STATUS	PRIMARY
FOLLY	F-01 THE STACK BAR
TRUE FOOTPRINT	212 FT × 48 FT
SHOWN AT	×5 = 1060 FT × 240 FT
BEARING	-61° FROM PLAN NORTH
GROUND	TIMBER PILE PLATFORM, RENEWED 19
TRANSIT	7 / A C E / M34 CROSSTOWN
COORDINATE	40.7570, -74.0055
PLAN WINDOW	2000 FT × 1620 FT

OVERSCALE STUDY

×1 ×2 ×4

TRUE FOLLY	212 FT
SHOWN ×5	1060 FT
MANHATTAN BLOCK	800 FT
FLATIRON, LONG SIDE	190 FT
EMPIRE STATE, HEIGHT	1250 FT

READING

SITE NOTE

THE LONG PIER. 212-foot bar laid along the pier axis, both long faces public.

ORIENTATION

BOTH LONG FACES PUBLIC; THE PIER IS THE PROMENADE

PRECEDENT FOR THE FIELD: SEA RANCH, MOONRAKER ATHLETIC CLUB

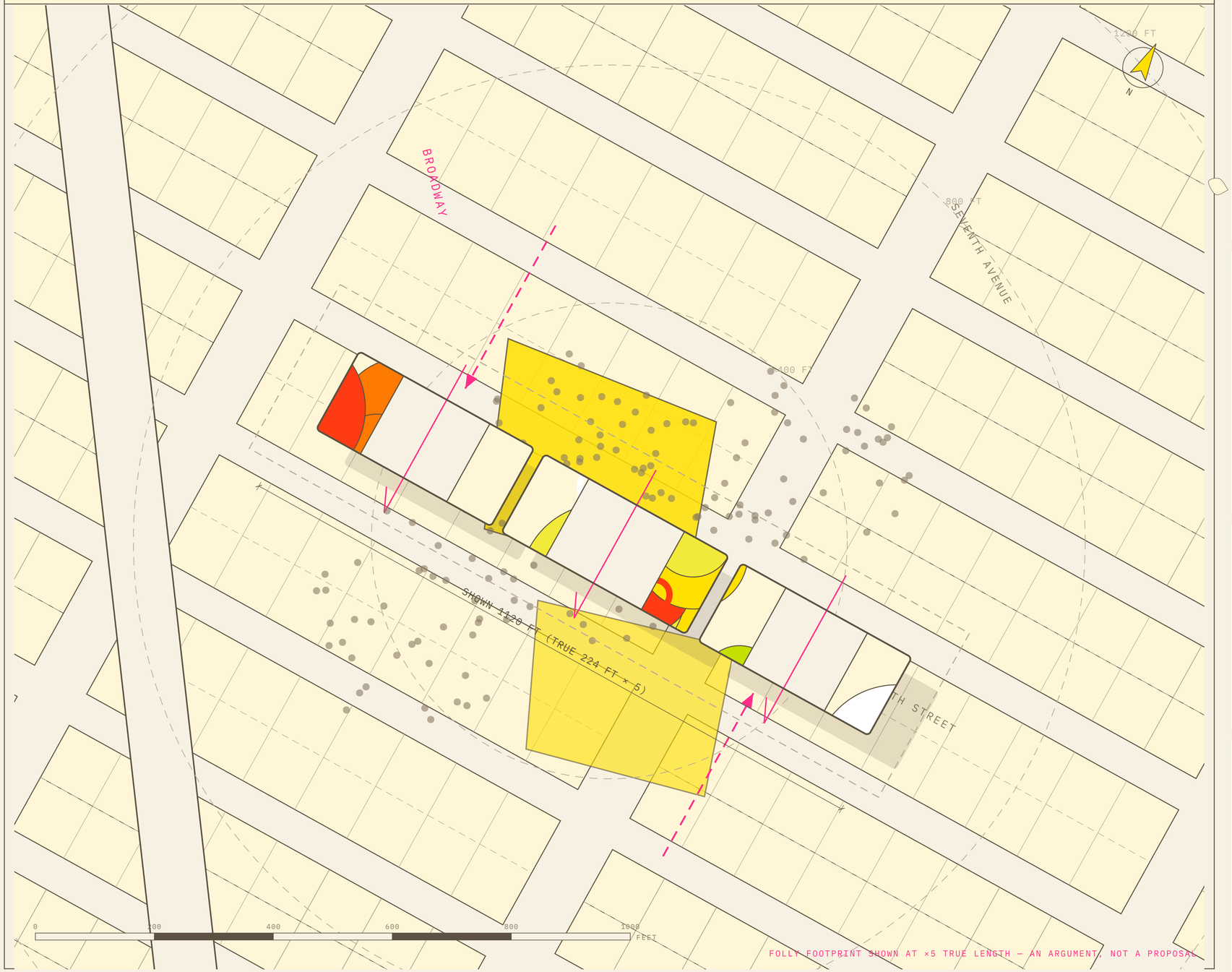
P-16

S-05 TIMES SQUARE BOWTIE

F-04 THE TRIPLE PORTAL AT ×5 OVERSCALE

SITE PLAN — TIMES SQUARE BOWTIE / W 45TH ST

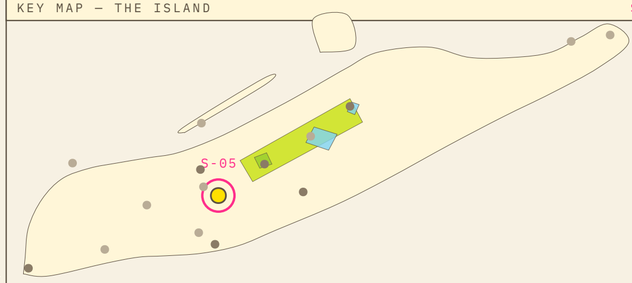
1 IN = 100 FT / ×5



FOLLY FOOTPRINT SHOWN AT ×5 TRUE LENGTH — AN ARGUMENT, NOT A PROPOSAL

KEY MAP — THE ISLAND

S-05



NORTH TO THE RIGHT

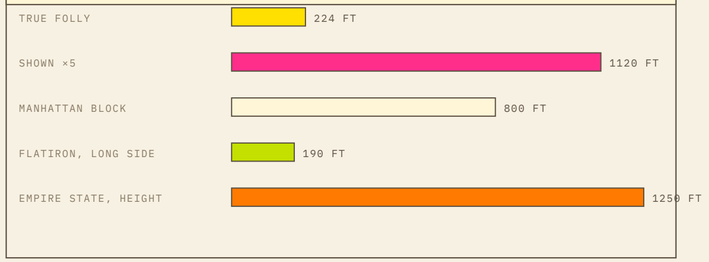
SITE DATA

S-05

SITE	TIMES SQUARE BOWTIE / W 45TH ST
STATUS	PRIMARY
FOLLY	F-04 THE TRIPLE PORTAL
TRUE FOOTPRINT	224 FT × 30 FT
SHOWN AT	×5 = 1120 FT × 150 FT
BEARING	+29° FROM PLAN NORTH
GROUND	BEDROCK AT 42 FT; SUBWAY BOX AT
TRANSIT	N Q R W / 1 2 3 / 7 / S
COORDINATE	40.7580, -73.9866
PLAN WINDOW	2000 FT × 1620 FT

OVERSCALE STUDY

×1 ×2 ×4



READING

SITE NOTE

THE BOWTIE. Three portals stand across the pedestrian plaza, open both ways.

ORIENTATION

OPEN BOTH WAYS; THE PORTALS FACE UP- AND DOWN-BROADWAY

PRECEDENT FOR THE FIELD: ARCHIGRAM, INSTANT CITY, 1969

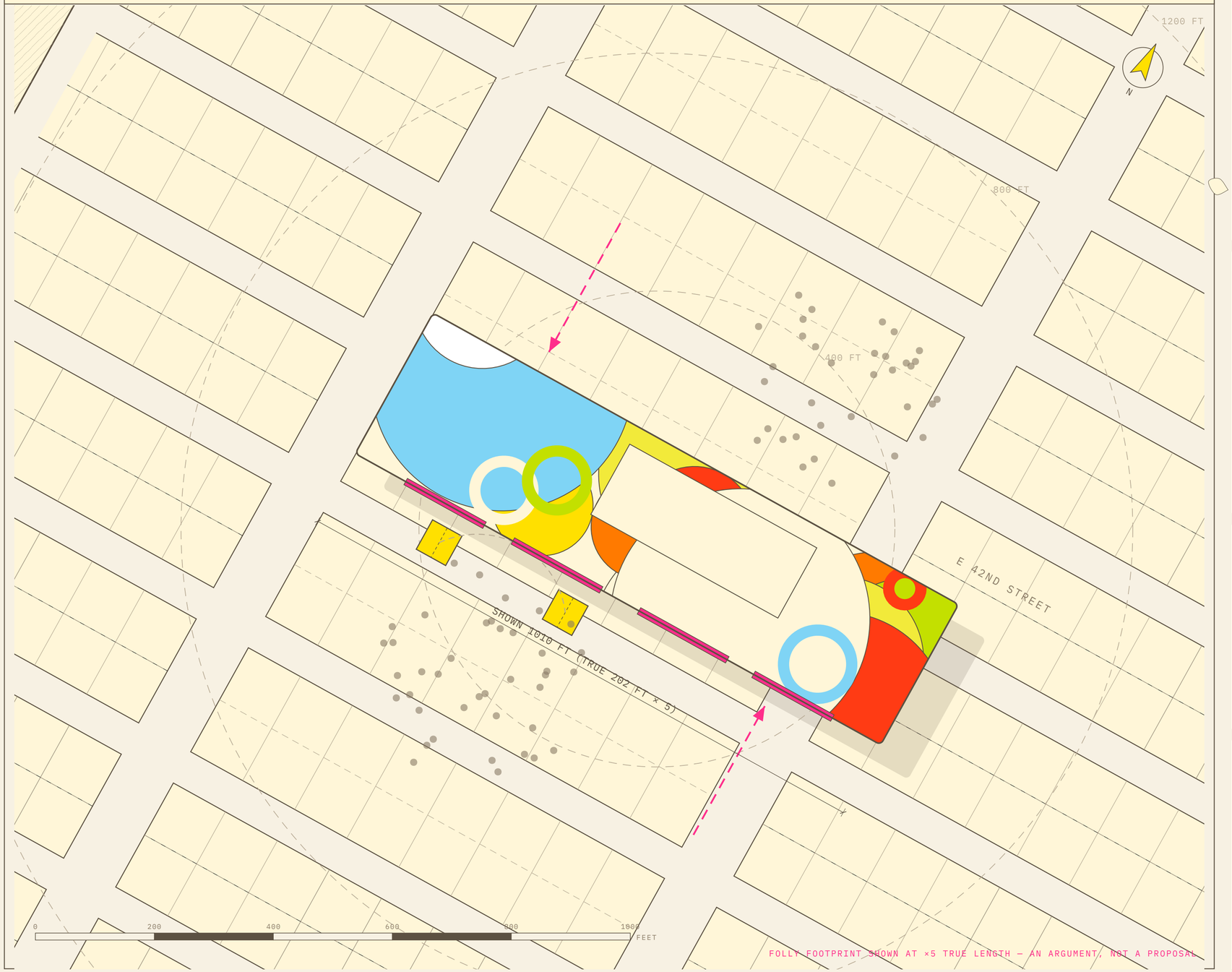
P-17

S-07 PARK AVE VIADUCT

F-03 THE HAIRPIN AT ×5 OVERSCALE

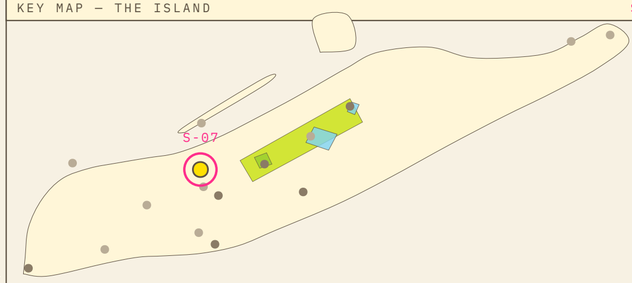
SITE PLAN — PARK AVE VIADUCT / GRAND CENTRAL

1 IN = 100 FT / ×5



KEY MAP — THE ISLAND

S-07



NORTH TO THE RIGHT

SITE DATA

S-07

SITE	PARK AVE VIADUCT / GRAND CENTRAL
STATUS	PRIMARY
FOLLY	F-03 THE HAIRPIN
TRUE FOOTPRINT	202 FT × 54 FT
SHOWN AT	×5 = 1010 FT × 270 FT
BEARING	+29° FROM PLAN NORTH
GROUND	STEEL VIADUCT OVER RAIL YARD, 19
TRANSIT	4 5 6 / 7 / S / METRO-NORTH
COORDINATE	40.7527, -73.9765
PLAN WINDOW	2000 FT × 1620 FT

OVERSCALE STUDY

×1 ×2 ×4

TRUE FOLLY	202 FT
SHOWN ×5	1010 FT
MANHATTAN BLOCK	800 FT
FLATIRON, LONG SIDE	190 FT
EMPIRE STATE, HEIGHT	1250 FT

READING

SITE NOTE

THE VIADUCT. The hairpin straddles the roadway; the block sits on the ramp.

ORIENTATION

THE HAIRPIN STRADDLES THE ROADWAY; TRAFFIC PASSES BENEATH

PRECEDENT FOR THE FIELD: VENTURI & SHORT, GRAND'S RESTAURANT, P

P-18

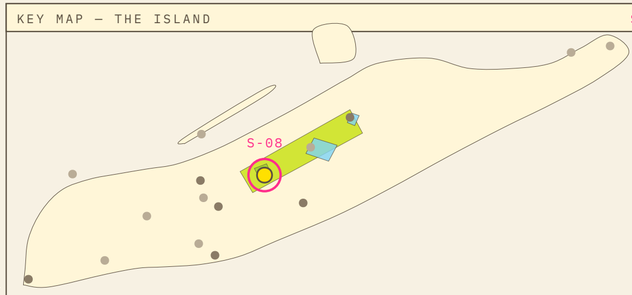
S-08 SHEEP MEADOW

F-02 THE LOBED ARCADE AT ×6 OVERSCALE

SITE PLAN — SHEEP MEADOW / CENTRAL PARK — 1 IN = 100 FT / ×6

FOLLY FOOTPRINT SHOWN AT ×6 TRUE LENGTH — AN ARGUMENT, NOT A PROPOSAL

KEY MAP — THE ISLAND — S-08

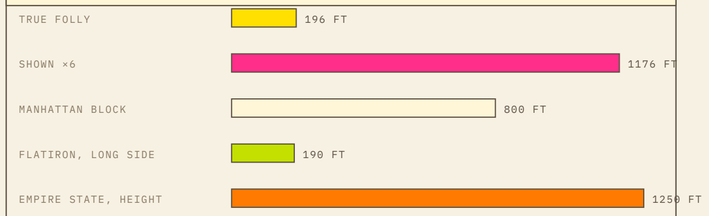


NORTH TO THE RIGHT

SITE DATA — S-08

SITE	SHEEP MEADOW / CENTRAL PARK
STATUS	PRIMARY
FOLLY	F-02 THE LOBED ARCADE
TRUE FOOTPRINT	196 FT × 62 FT
SHOWN AT	×6 = 1176 FT × 372 FT
BEARING	-16° FROM PLAN NORTH
GROUND	GLACIAL TILL OVER MANHATTAN SCHI
TRANSIT	B C / 1 / M10 M79
COORDINATE	40.7716, -73.9744
PLAN WINDOW	2000 FT × 1620 FT

OVERSCALE STUDY — ×1 ×2 ×4



READING — SITE NOTE

THE MEADOW. The cumulus front faces the West Side skyline across open lawn.

ORIENTATION

THE CUMULUS FRONT FACES THE WEST SIDE SKYLINE

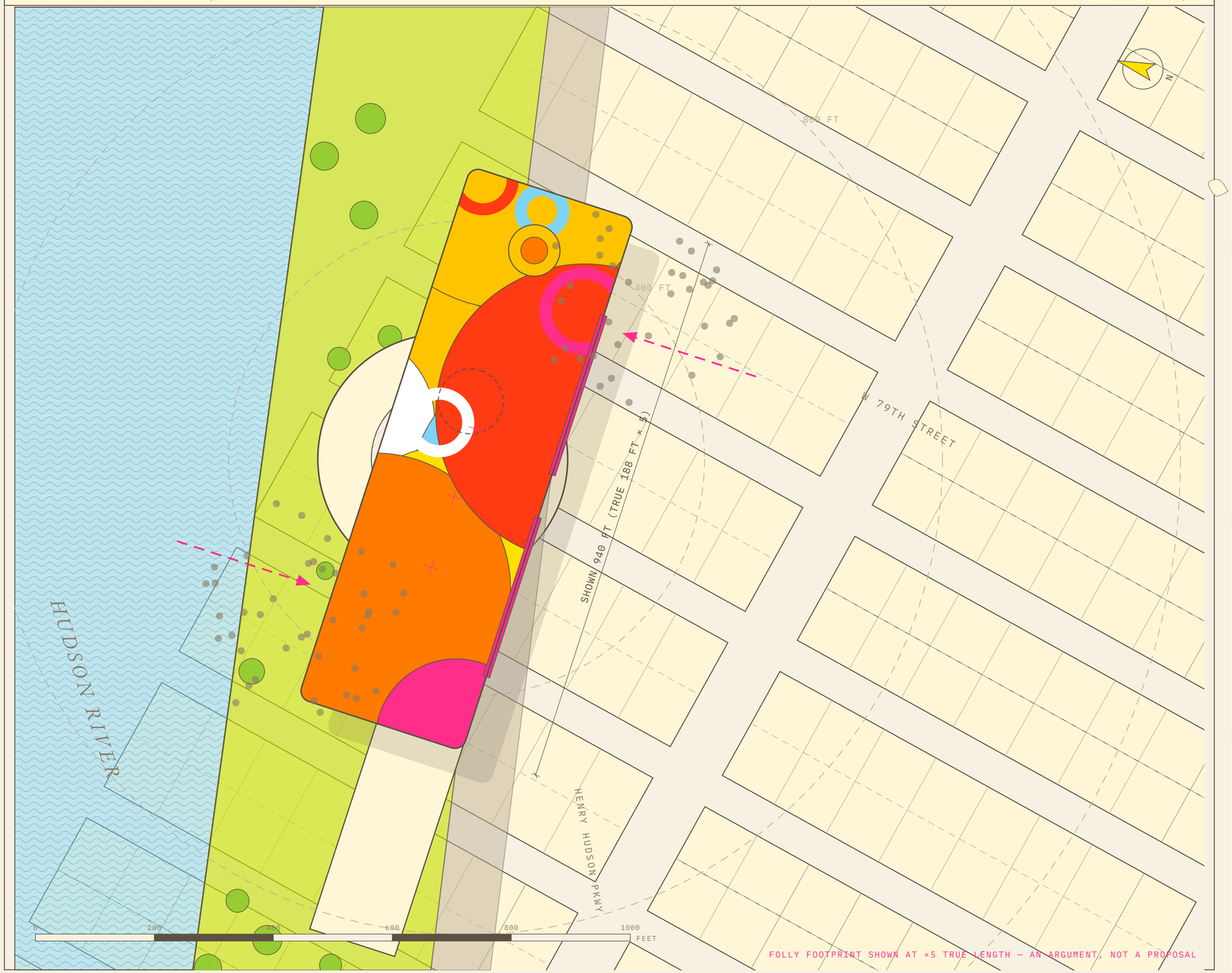
PRECEDENT FOR THE FIELD: MEXICO 68 OLYMPIC IDENTITY

P-19

S-10 79TH ST ROTUNDA

SITE PLAN — 79TH ST ROTUNDA / RIVERSIDE PARK

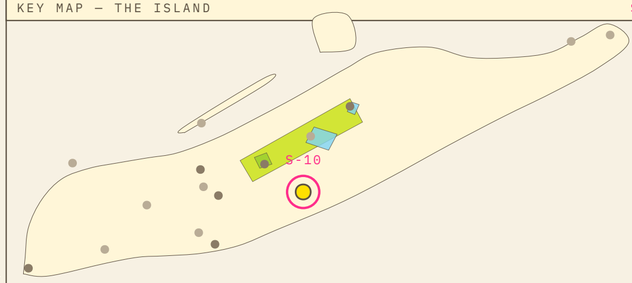
1 IN = 100 FT / ×5



FOLLY FOOTPRINT SHOWN AT ×5 TRUE LENGTH — AN ARGUMENT, NOT A PROPOSAL

KEY MAP — THE ISLAND

S-10



NORTH TO THE RIGHT

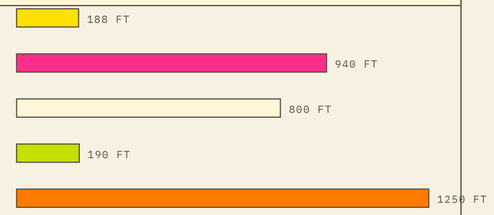
SITE DATA

S-10

SITE	79TH ST ROTUNDA / RIVERSIDE PARK
STATUS	PRIMARY
FOLLY	F-06 THE TWIN ARCH MASTHOUSE
TRUE FOOTPRINT	188 FT × 58 FT
SHOWN AT	×5 = 940 FT × 290 FT
BEARING	-72° FROM PLAN NORTH
GROUND	FILL OVER THE BURIED RAIL CUT, 1
TRANSIT	1 / M79 CROSSTOWN
COORDINATE	40.7830, -73.9852
PLAN WINDOW	2000 FT × 1620 FT

OVERSCALE STUDY

×1 ×2 ×4



READING

SITE NOTE

THE ROTUNDA. Twin glazed arches face the Hudson; the flue faces the city.

ORIENTATION

TWO GLAZED ARCHES TO THE RIVER; THE FLUE TO THE CITY

PRECEDENT FOR THE FIELD: D. SUSSMAN & J. JERDE, LOS ANGELES OLY

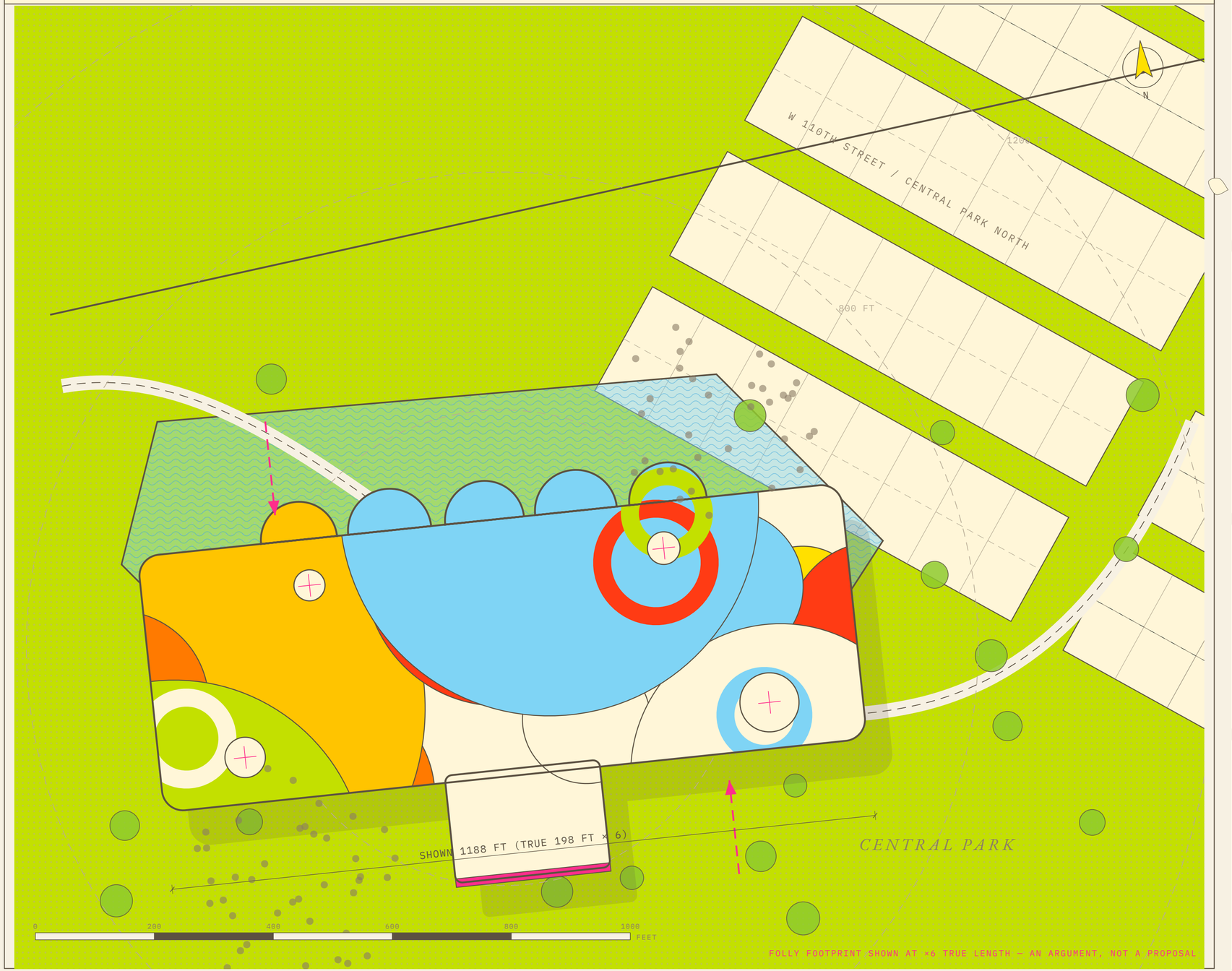
P-20

S-11 HARLEM MEER

F-05 THE CRENELLATED OCULUS AT ×6 OVERSCALE

SITE PLAN — HARLEM MEER / 110TH ST

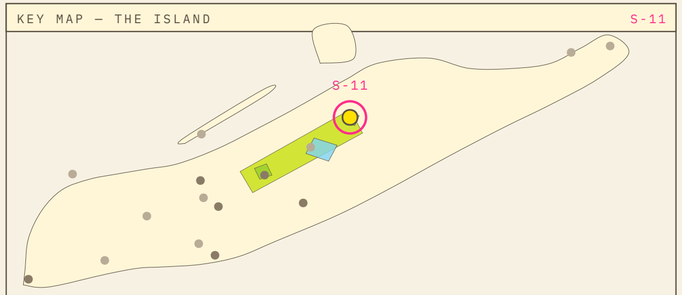
1 IN = 100 FT / ×6



FOLLY FOOTPRINT SHOWN AT ×6 TRUE LENGTH — AN ARGUMENT, NOT A PROPOSAL

KEY MAP — THE ISLAND

S-11



NORTH TO THE RIGHT

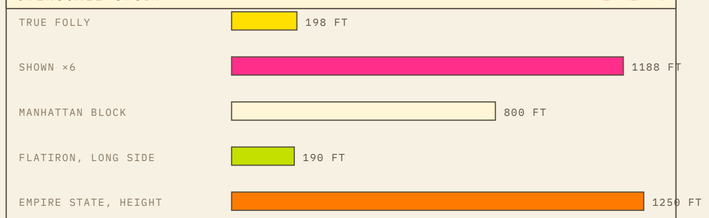
SITE DATA

S-11

SITE	HARLEM MEER / 110TH ST
STATUS	PRIMARY
FOLLY	F-05 THE CRENELLATED OCULUS
TRUE FOOTPRINT	198 FT × 72 FT
SHOWN AT	×6 = 1188 FT × 432 FT
BEARING	-6° FROM PLAN NORTH
GROUND	DAMMED MARSH, MONTAYNE'S RIVULET
TRANSIT	2 3 / B C / M2 M3 M4
COORDINATE	40.7968, -73.9520
PLAN WINDOW	2000 FT × 1620 FT

OVERSCALE STUDY

×1 ×2 ×4



READING

SITE NOTE

THE MEER. Oculi are set to the water so the four eyes are always doubled.

ORIENTATION

THE FOUR OCULI ARE SET TO THE WATER AND ALWAYS DOUBLED

PRECEDENT FOR THE FIELD: CHARLES MOORE, PIAZZA D'ITALIA, NEW OR

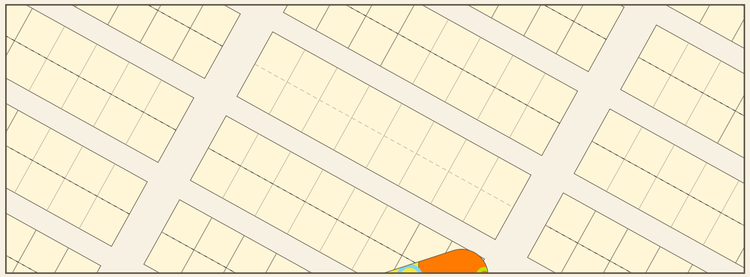
P-21

THE ALTERNATE SITES DOSSIER

NINE SITES HELD IN RESERVE

S-02 CANAL ST / HOLLAND TUNNEL ROTA

ALTERNATE



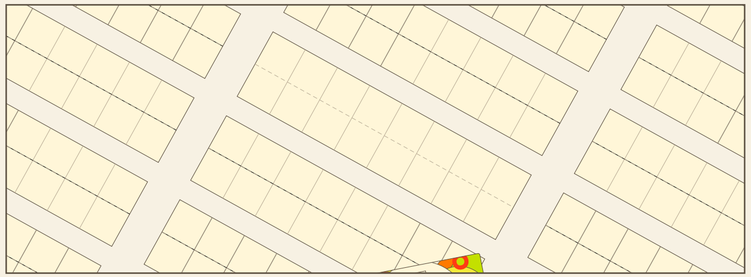
TESTED WITH F-01 THE STACK BAR AT ×3

40.7245, -74.0075

Traffic rotary; the folly becomes a roundabout island.

S-03 THE SPUR / 30TH ST & 10TH AVE

ALTERNATE



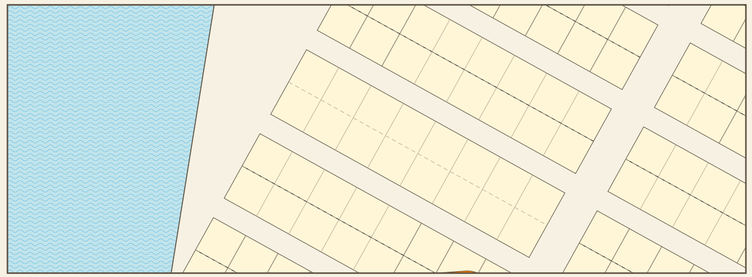
TESTED WITH F-03 THE HAIRPIN AT ×3

40.7522, -74.0010

Elevated placement on the High Line spur; folly straddles the viaduct.

S-06 BRYANT PARK LAWN

ALTERNATE



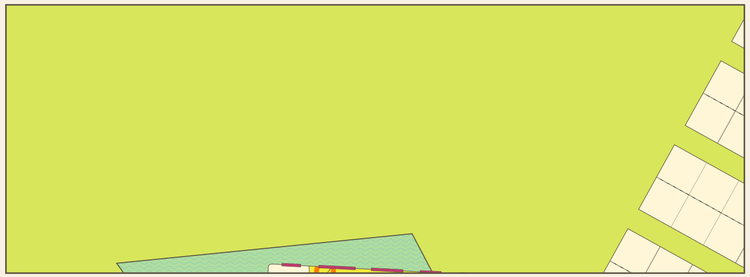
TESTED WITH F-01 THE STACK BAR AT ×3

40.7536, -73.9832

The lawn is the only true clearing in midtown; folly sits on the grass.

S-09 THE RESERVOIR / CENTRAL PARK

ALTERNATE



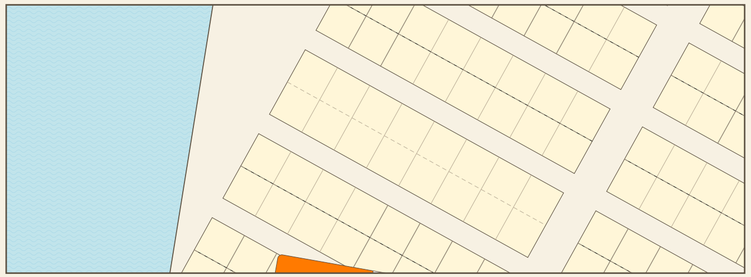
TESTED WITH F-02 THE LOBED ARCADE AT ×3

40.7852, -73.9636

Floating placement on the reservoir; the field is doubled by reflection.

S-12 SHERMAN CREEK / DYCKMAN

ALTERNATE



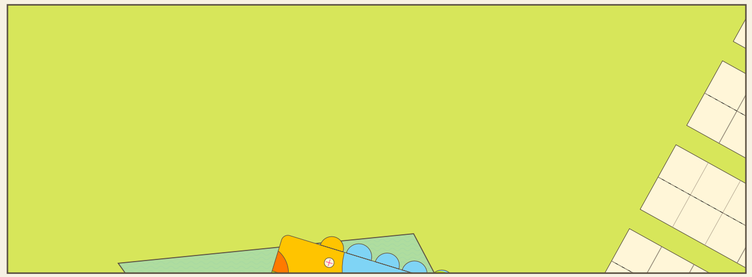
TESTED WITH F-06 THE TWIN ARCH MASTHOUSE AT ×3

40.8620, -73.9268

Tidal inlet; the folly is founded on piles in the creek.

S-13 MUSCOTA MARSH / INWOOD

ALTERNATE



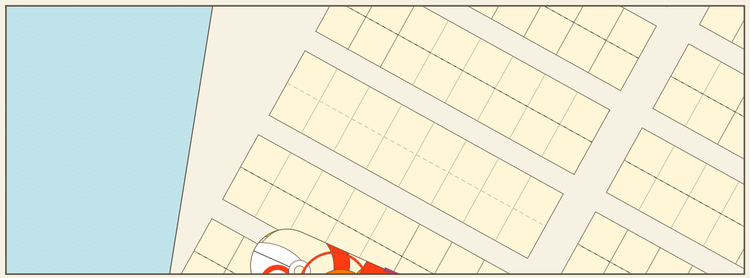
TESTED WITH F-05 THE CRENELLATED OCULUS AT ×3

40.8735, -73.9243

The island's north tip; folly marks the end of the grid.

S-14 SOUTHPOINT / ROOSEVELT ISLAND

ALTERNATE



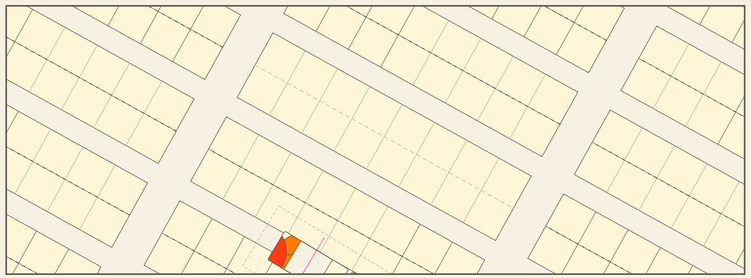
TESTED WITH F-07 THE VAULTED TANKFARM AT ×3

40.7530, -73.9585

In the East River channel; visible from both shores at once.

S-15 EAST RIVER PARK / DELANCEY

ALTERNATE



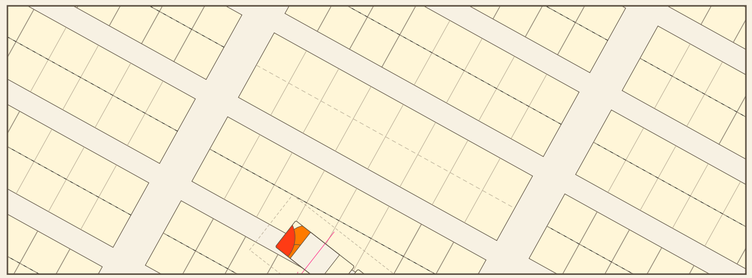
TESTED WITH F-04 THE TRIPLE PORTAL AT ×3

40.7150, -73.9740

On the FDR deck; the folly bridges traffic to the water.

S-16 UNION SQUARE NORTH PLAZA

ALTERNATE



TESTED WITH F-04 THE TRIPLE PORTAL AT ×3

40.7369, -73.9903

The most contested ground in the register; folly as permanent occupation.

P-22

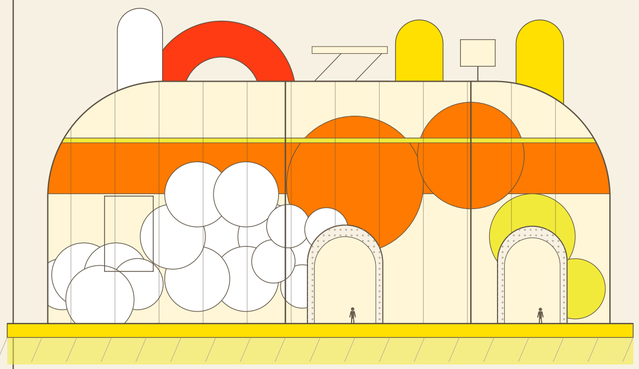
AERIAL I — THE BATTERY

S-01 / F-07 THE VAULTED TANKFARM AT ×5

AERIAL — THE BATTERY / PETER MINUIT PLAZA ×5 OVERSCALE

GROUND PLANE ROTATED -34°; ALL HEIGHTS DRAWN TRUE AND VERTICAL — CABINET OBLIQUE

THE FOLLY, ELEVATION F-07



AERIAL DATA S-01

VIEW	CABINET OBLIQUE
GROUND ROTATION	-34°
OVERSCALE	×5
SHOWN LENGTH	1200 FT
SHOWN HEIGHT	250 FT
TRUE HEIGHT	50 FT
SIDE COLOUR	Y-01
ROOF	SUPERGRAPHIC FIELD, PLAN
SHADOW	CAST SOUTH-EAST, 20% TAUPE
SITE	THE BATTERY / PETER MINUIT PLA

READING AERIAL NOTE

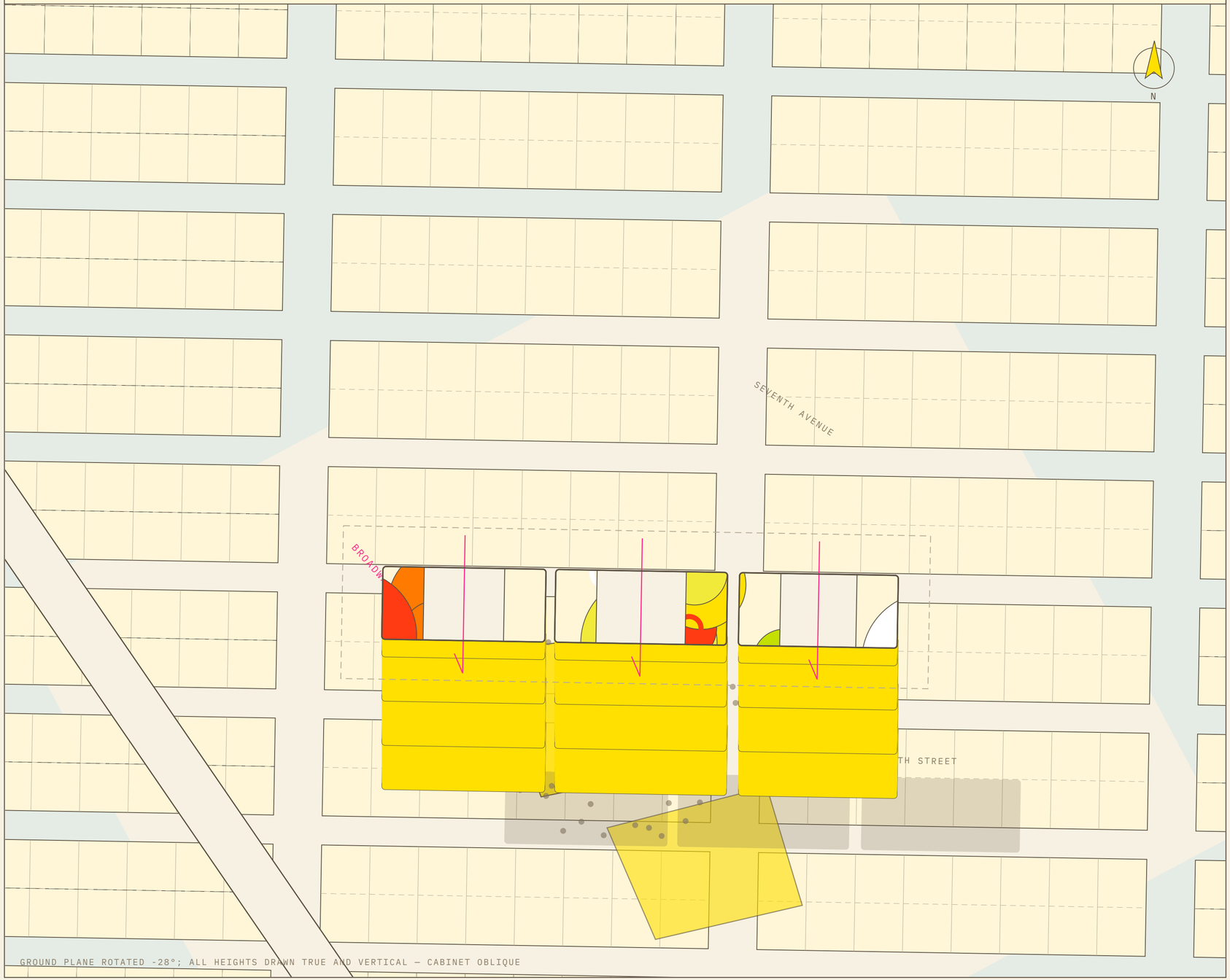
Seen from above the harbour, the vault becomes a painted lid on the end of the island. The clovers, sized from the tanks beneath them, are legible only from this angle — which is the argument for putting them on the roof at all.

P-23

AERIAL II — THE BOWTIE

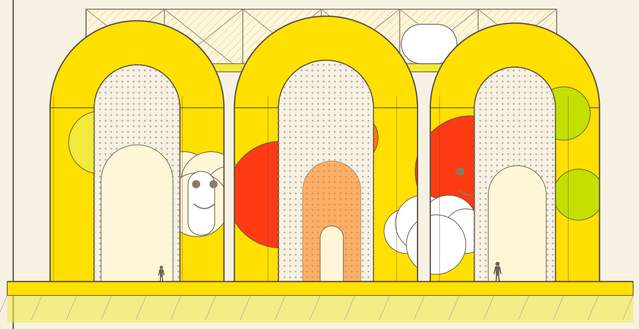
S-05 / F-04 THE TRIPLE PORTAL AT ×5

AERIAL — TIMES SQUARE BOWTIE / W 45TH ST — ×5 OVERSCALE



GROUND PLANE ROTATED -28°; ALL HEIGHTS DRAWN TRUE AND VERTICAL — CABINET OBLIQUE

THE FOLLY, ELEVATION — F-04



AERIAL DATA — S-05

VIEW	CABINET OBLIQUE
GROUND ROTATION	-28°
OVERSCALE	×5
SHOWN LENGTH	1120 FT
SHOWN HEIGHT	310 FT
TRUE HEIGHT	62 FT
SIDE COLOUR	Y-01
ROOF	SUPERGRAPHIC FIELD, PLAN
SHADOW	CAST SOUTH-EAST, 20% TAUPE
SITE	TIMES SQUARE BOWTIE / W 45TH S

READING — AERIAL NOTE

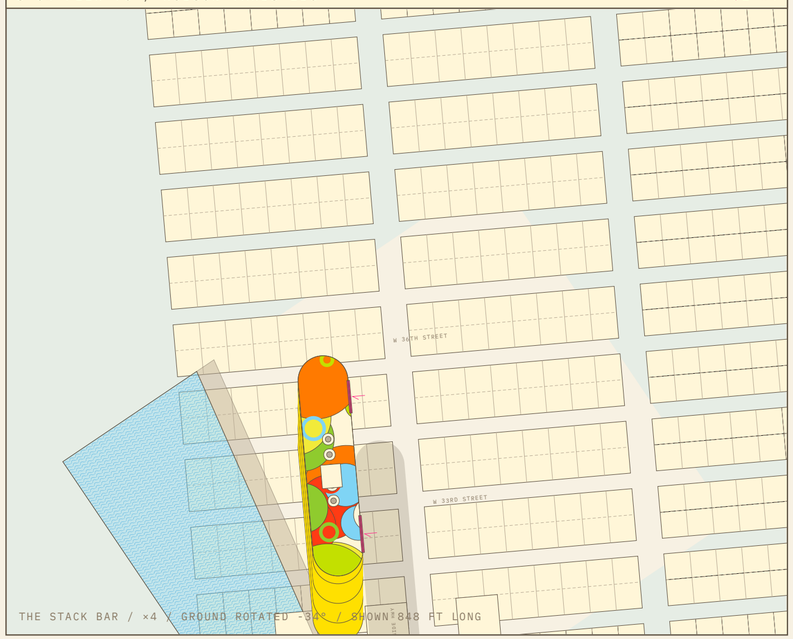
Three bands laid across the bowtie at five times true length. The portals are wide enough that Broadway passes through the middle one; from the air the plaza reads as a single painted floor interrupted three times.

P-24

AERIAL III

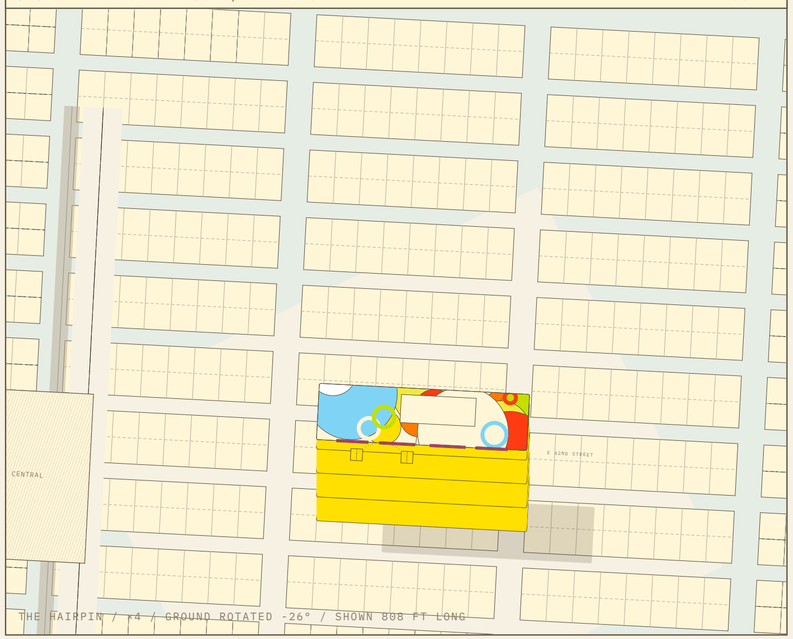
FIVE SITES IN OBLIQUE

S-04 PIER 76 / HUDSON YARDS EDG F-01 ×4



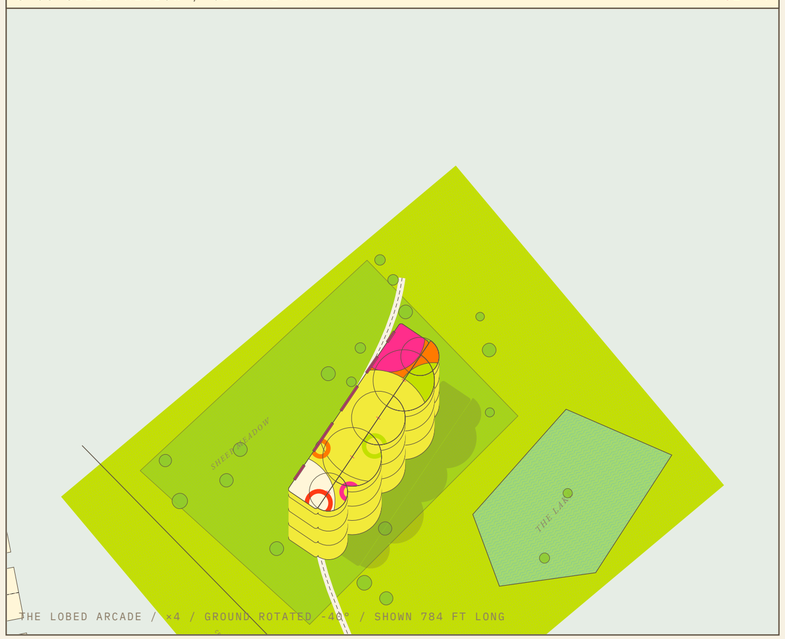
THE STACK BAR / ×4 / GROUND ROTATED -34° / SHOWN 848 FT LONG

S-07 PARK AVE VIADUCT / GRAND C F-03 ×4



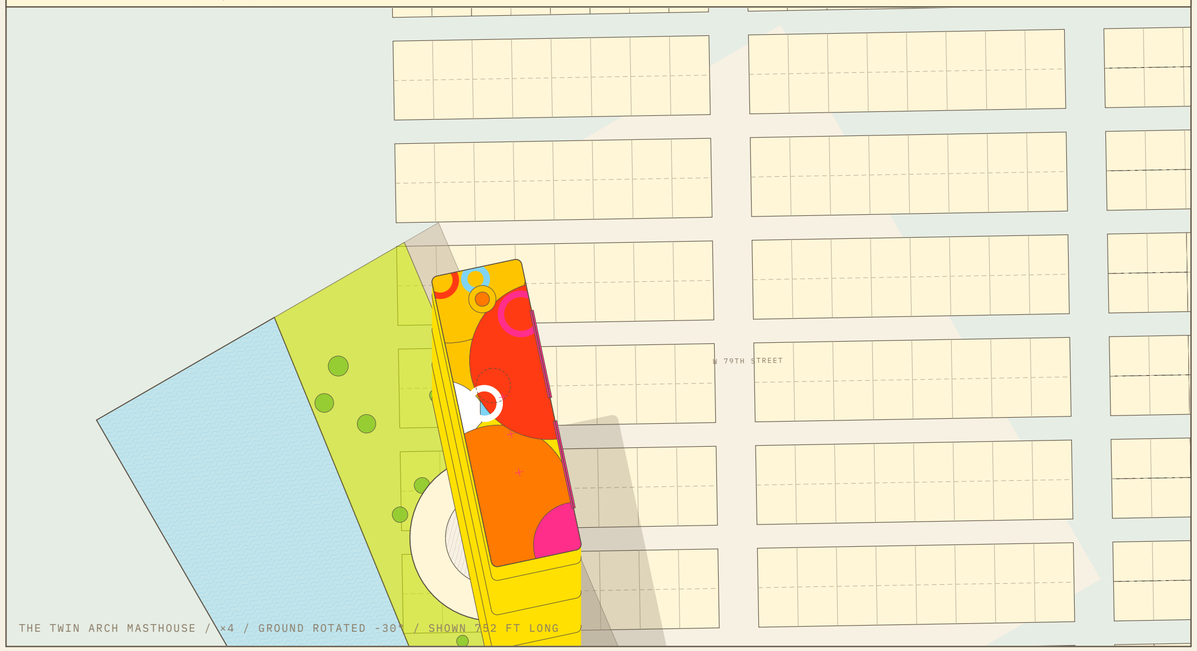
THE HAIRPIN / ×4 / GROUND ROTATED -26° / SHOWN 808 FT LONG

S-08 SHEEP MEADOW / CENTRAL PAR F-02 ×4



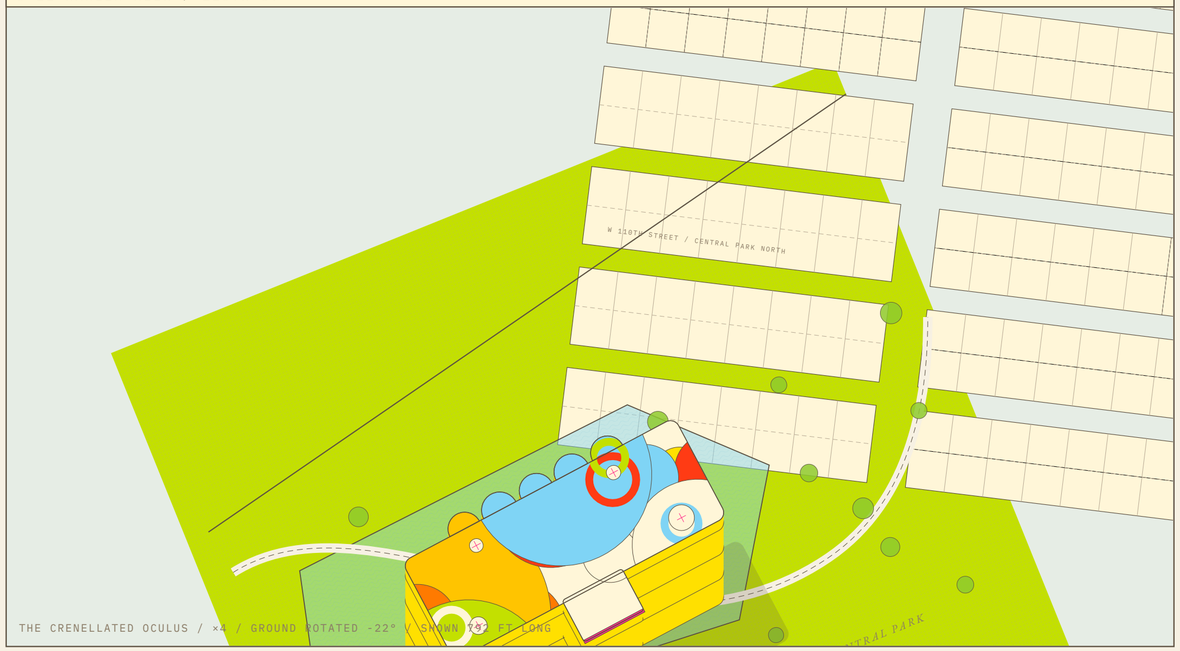
THE LOBED ARCADE / ×4 / GROUND ROTATED -40° / SHOWN 784 FT LONG

S-10 79TH ST ROTUNDA / RIVERSID F-06 ×4



THE TWIN ARCH MASTHOUSE / ×4 / GROUND ROTATED -30° / SHOWN 792 FT LONG

S-11 HARLEM MEER / 110TH ST F-05 ×4



THE CRENELLATED OCULUS / ×4 / GROUND ROTATED -22° / SHOWN 792 FT LONG

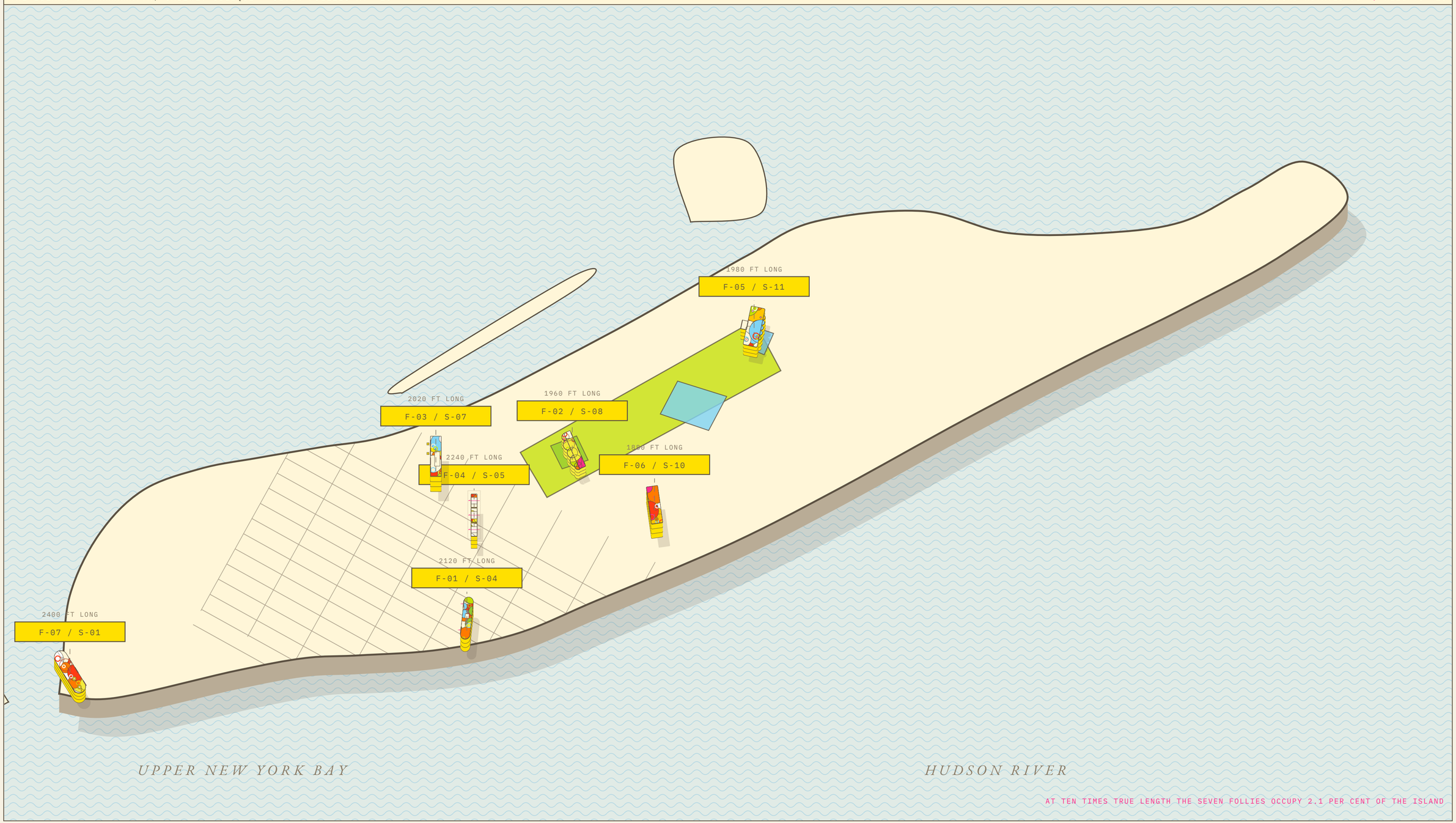
P-25

AERIAL IV — THE ISLAND

ALL SEVEN AT ×10 OVERSCALE

THE ISLAND OF MANNAHATTA, CABINET OBLIQUE — SEVEN FOLLIES AT ×10

GROUND ROTATED 90° / HEIGHTS ×10



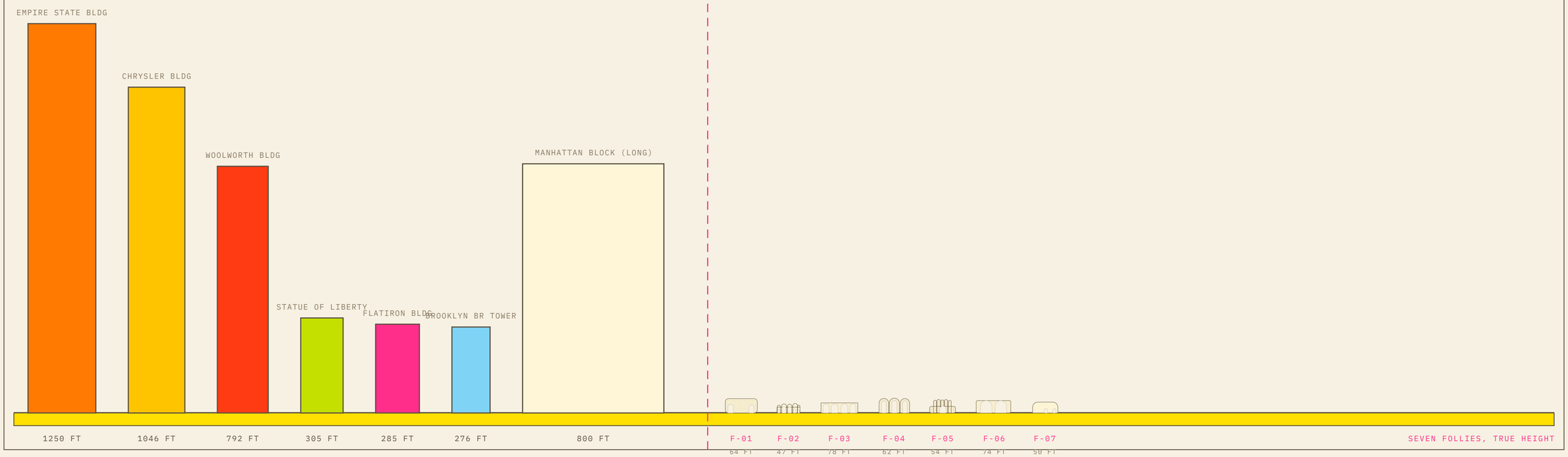
AT TEN TIMES TRUE LENGTH THE SEVEN FOLLIES OCCUPY 2.1 PER CENT OF THE ISLAND

P-26

SCALE

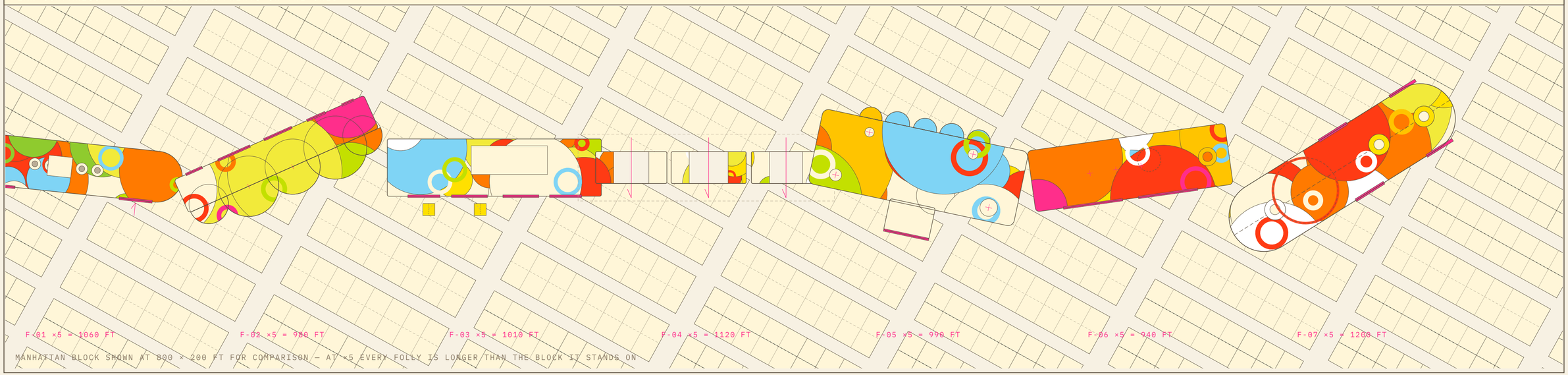
ELEVATION COMPARISON — TRUE HEIGHTS

1 IN = 120 FT



PLAN COMPARISON — OVERSCALED FOOTPRINTS ON THE GRID

1 IN = 400 FT



MANHATTAN BLOCK SHOWN AT 800 × 200 FT FOR COMPARISON — AT ×5 EVERY FOLLY IS LONGER THAN THE BLOCK IT STANDS ON

P-27

COLOPHON & METHOD

METHOD — DRAWING

Seven source specimens were redrawn parametrically rather than traced. Each elevation was rebuilt from compass centres, stadium profiles and arch springings, so that every disc in the field could be struck at full size and then clipped at the silhouette — the operation the source images only imply. The roof plans share their x-coordinates with the elevations, which is why flues, oculi and portals register between the two drawings.

The island was redrawn from coordinates in a local equal-area projection where one unit is 36.4 feet. The Commissioners' grid is generated at 29 degrees east of north and clipped to the shoreline. Nothing on the siting plates is a proposal; the overscale factors of four to ten are the argument.

No black appears anywhere in this atlas. The darkest tone permitted is a warm taupe. Type is EB Garamond and IBM Plex Mono throughout.

SOURCES CONSULTED — PRECEDENT RESEARCH

SMITH, C. RAY. Supermannerism: New Attitudes in Post-Modern Architecture. Dutton, 1977. Smith (1929–1988) coined both terms; his 1967 definition excluded graphics carrying identifiable elements.

SAH ARCHIPEDIA, The Sea Ranch. Halprin, planner; MLTW and Esherick, architects, 1962–1967; interiors carrying Solomon's supergraphics.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN ARCHIVES, UC BERKELEY. Barbara Stauffacher Solomon Collection; Moonraker Athletic Club, published in Progressive Architecture, 1967.

CED BERKELEY, Solomon biography. Basel training in hard-edge Swiss graphics; the Sea Ranch ram's-head logo and the athletic club interiors.

DOCOMOMO US, The Sea Ranch register entry.

SHAUGHNESSY, A. & BROOK, T. (eds). Supergraphics: Transforming Space. Unit Editions, 2010.

VENTURI, SCOTT BROWN & IZENOUR. Learning from Las Vegas. MIT Press, 1972.

WYMAN, L., TERRAZAS, E., RAMÍREZ VÁZQUEZ, P. Mexico 68 Olympic identity programme.

SPECIMEN INDEX — SOURCE FILES

F-01 THE STACK BAR — S-04
240716_01.png / LOZENGE BAR — stadium section, extruded

F-02 THE LOBED ARCADE — S-08
240716_03.png / STADIUM CLUSTER — five lobes, seven bays

F-03 THE HAIRPIN — S-07
240716_04.png / ANNULUS + FOUR-BAY BLOCK

F-04 THE TRIPLE PORTAL — S-05
240716_05.png / FREE-STANDING ANNULAR ARCHES + CANOPY

F-05 THE CRENELLATED OCULUS — S-11
240716_06.png / MERLON PARAPET + OCULUS FIELD

F-06 THE TWIN ARCH MASTHOUSE — S-10
240715_01.png / TWIN ARCH BLOCK + CYLINDER + ORB

F-07 THE VAULTED TANKFARM — S-01
240711_033.png / BARREL VAULT + CAPSULE BATTERY

ATTRIBUTION — COLOPHON

THE SUPERGRAPHIC FOLLIES OF MANNAHATTA

AN ATLAS OF SEVEN FOLLIES AND SIXTEEN SPECULATIVE SITES

SURJAN SUPER SCHOOL

27 PLATES, LANDSCAPE 24 × 16 INCHES
EB GARAMOND / IBM PLEX MONO
PALETTE: BRIGHT ONLY, NO BLACK, DARKEST TONE #5C5142
PROJECTION: LOCAL EQUAL-AREA, 1 UNIT = 36.4 FT

SURJAN, WITH THE AID OF CLAUDE